

she will bear a SON, and you are to name him Jesus

MATTHEW 1:21

December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES RINGING OF BELL WELCOME

Those gathered are invited to respond with the bold printed words.

PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

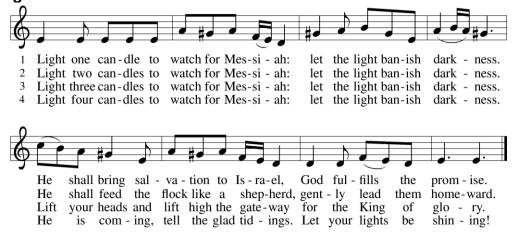
Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN DURING LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah ELW 240



The communion of saints stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, \pm Son, and Holy Spirit,

whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.

We have not always welcomed the stranger;

we have not always loved our neighbor;

we have not always been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242) Α wake! Α wake, and for greet the new morn, To us, to all in sor row and fear, Em dark ing shall 3 In est night his com when be. Re joice, re joice, take heart in the night, though an - gels her - ald dawn - ing. Sing your its for out joy, man - u - el comes a sing - ing, his hum - ble song is the world is de spair - ing, as morn - ing light so cheer - less, the dark the win-ter shall and ris ing sun he hold! the Child of soon is born, be our long ing. qui - et and near. yet fills the earth with its ring ing; car qui - et and gen - tle free, so warm and and ing. crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Come as ba by weak and poor, to bring all hearts mu - sic to heal the bro ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -Then shall the mute break forth song, the lame shall leap in in Love be and love prayer and love our end - less song our he wide the heav'n - ly door geth er, o pens and kind ness, the thun der of his an thems roll the and won - der, the weak raised a bove strong, be sto may God fill ev 'ry day share and ry; we lives now side for in -118 ev er. shat - ter all ha tred and blind ness. weap - ons be bro - ken a sun der. bring us at last in glo to ry.

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

A reading from Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The communion of saints stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.205)



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

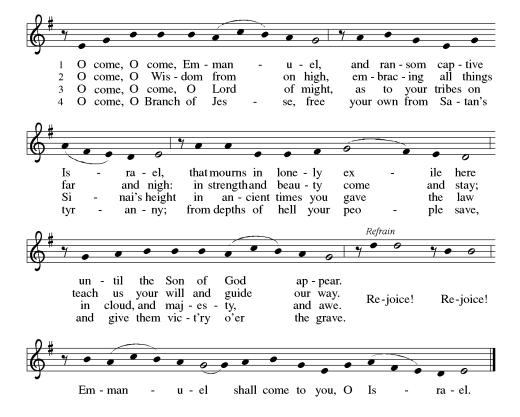
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The communion of saints is seated.

SERMON

The communion of saints stands.

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257) See next page.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "Hear our prayer."

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

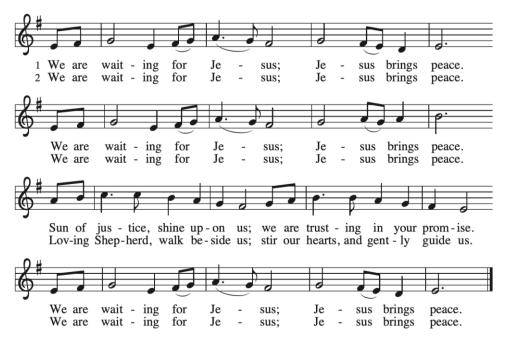
The communion of saints is seated.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. Options on ways to give are found on our website (www.wbbethany.org). Thank you!

Offerings received are brought forward and placed on the altar as the communion of saints stands and sings the offertory hymn.

OFFERTORY HYMN We Are Waiting for Jesus (All Creation Sings 905) See next page.



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood. shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The communion of saints is seated.

COMMUNION

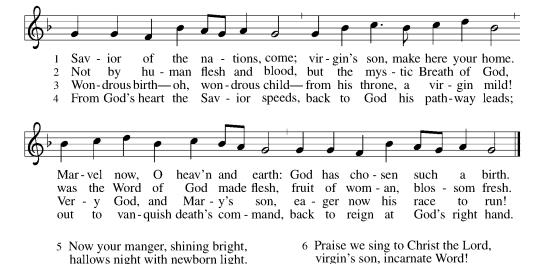
Communion today will be distributed in a continuous line. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.

To the holy Trinity

praise we sing eternally!

COMMUNION HYMNS Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263)



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

hallows night with newborn light.

Night cannot this light subdue;

let our faith shine ever new.

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The communion of saints stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected + Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN Joy to the World (ELW 267) See next page.



SENDING

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us. Please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs for refreshments.

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	December 24
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Del Hughes	Shawn Samuelson
Christ's Light (Acolytes)		
Minister of Technology	Jill Taylor	Paula Casper
Worship (Altar Care)	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023 after worship

Remember, a "Voting Member" per our Constitution and Bylaws is defined as:

C8.02.c Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.





A reminder there will be no worship on Christmas day. Sunday worship will resume on New Year's Day at 9:30 AM.





Many people donate countless hours in various ministries utilizing their unique skills and abilities. Hence, it is important for planning purposes to know who is volunteering for which ministries. Help us plan and manage this generosity by completing the online Time and Talent form, which can be accessed at the following link (https://tinyurl.com/yd9mxdcx) or by scanning the QR Code to the left.

- There is a section at the end of this form where you can leave any comments.
- Please submit a new form for each person who would like to volunteer.
- Please let a member of the Stewardship Team (Dave Poppen, Kent Kaufman, Stacy Beyer) know if you have any questions.

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