

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Second Sunday in Advent

Divine Service – Setting One

December 10, 2023

Vol. 126-02

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*

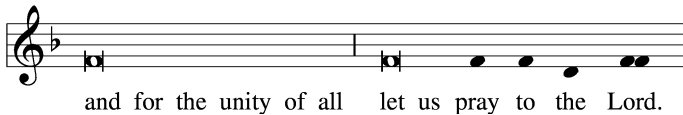
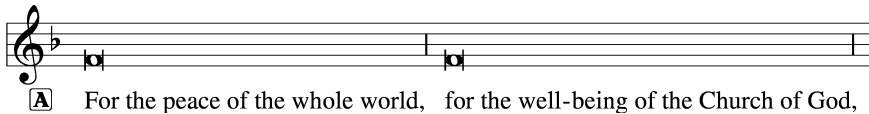
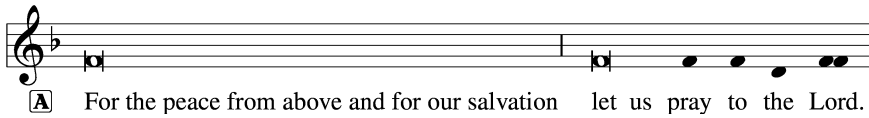
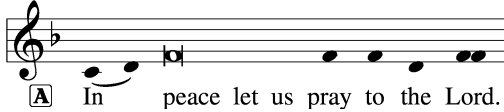
the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

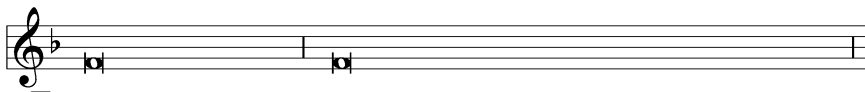
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit;
as it was in the be- / ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.*

Say to the daughter of / Zion,*
“Behold, your sal- / vation comes.”

The LORD will cause his majestic voice / to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- / ness of heart.

Kyrie





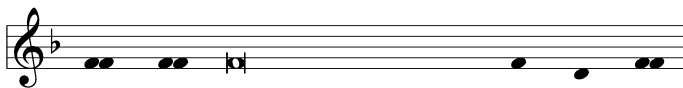
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

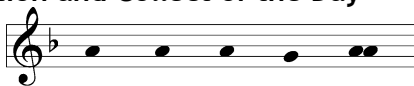


A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1–6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” ¹⁰And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” ¹¹And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” ¹²And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)
Joyce Krumma (aunt of Rick Krumma)
Donita Yates (Cousin of Clara Conrad)
Mark Jackson, Tom Black (father of Ed Black)
Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)
Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)
Margaret Whitesel, Joellen Meyer,
Norwin Bauermeister, Brandon Tomlinson

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Betsy Dodgers, Kristin Gresley,*
Hope Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger, Olivia Lambert, Allie Nabrwold, Jessica Schumm,
Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Margaret Moore, Reese Springer, Lauren Stoppenhagen, Shelby Todd

We pray for protection: *Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)
Imogene Bultemeier- in Hospice, Marilyn Meyer (Woodcrest)
Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Gloria Siela (home), Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

We pray for our schools

We pray for our Church and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Offering

Offertory



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



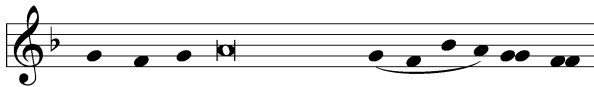
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

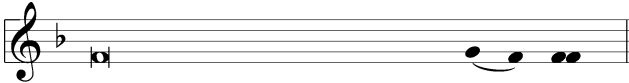
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

Distribution Hymns

#623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
#338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
#342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied
#331 The Advent of Our King
#659 Lord of Our Life

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

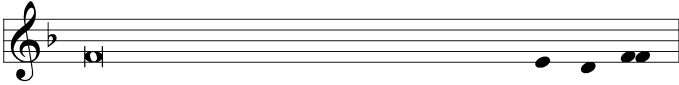
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#333 Once He Came in Blessing



WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching/Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Morgan Phillips and Sem. William Bales
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choirs	Adult Choir
Acolyte	Hunter Householder and Matthew Rekeweg
Crucifer	Matthew Rekeweg
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley, Dean Scheumann Peyton Laley, Jared Meyer, Kyle Patrick

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School Office	260-597-7366
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
<i>Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org</i>	

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:15 a.m. Board of Elders Meeting
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	5:15 p.m. JV Girls vs St. Louis Academy (Away)
	7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m. Chapel Service
	5:30 p.m. Catechesis Class
	7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Divine Service
	TBD Adult Choir Practice
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:15 a.m. Church Council Meeting
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 597-7121.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Sunday, December 17th at 11:15 a.m.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – Last Day -The altar committee is taking orders for Poinsettia plants to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Cost is \$13 per plant and your order can be left in the church office by December 10th with checks made payable to Women of Bethlehem. Please contact Jennifer Bultemeier with any questions 419-230-8068.

COOKIE WALK – Please sign up to donate cookies for our Cookie Walk on December 10th. A sign-up sheet is posted on the table in the north hallway.

BABY SHOWER – The Women of Bethlehem will be hosting a gift card / diaper shower for Pastor and Betsy Dodgers. A table will be set up in the foyer for your gifts.

2024 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE is now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services. Thank you

CHEESEBALLS – The Bethlehem Youth Group is selling homemade cheeseballs; \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20.00. Please see Deaconess Wendy Boehm to place your order.

Come to the school and tour the children's Christmas Art Exhibition on Sunday, December 17th. All the artwork is based on Luke 2, illustrating the birth of Jesus our Savior. Three entries were selected for bulletin covers. Students will be taking their artwork home after the Wednesday, December 20th Children's Christmas Service.

Donations for New Library Bookshelves - Library Improvement Phase II

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to Phase I of our room swap for the Library and Kindergarten. It was a great success! We are now beginning to raise money for Phase II, which will improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

RETIREMENT – After serving Lord of Life Church in Elkhorn, NE for 13 years and the LCMS for over 44 years, Julie Koenemann (former daughter of Bethlehem), is retiring from church work at the end of this year. Congratulations may be sent to: Lord of Life Lutheran Church c/o Julie's Retirement 120844 Bonanza Blvd. Elkhorn, NE 68022

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Soest) is hosting a performance of the Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saens on Sunday, December 17th at 7pm in the Emmanuel sanctuary. This lovely work is presented by five soloists and a chorus. All are welcome to attend.

HOLIDAY SERVICES - Please join us for worship:

December 13th Wednesday Evening Advent Services at 7:00 p.m.

The Bethlehem Youth Group will be providing a light supper before the service (Dec. 13th BBQ Chicken Sandwiches, Cheesy Potatoes, Pie)

December 20th Bethlehem Lutheran School Children's Christmas Service 7:00 p.m.

The Bethlehem Youth Group will be serving light supper before the service (Sloppy chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, Mac and cheese, veggies and fruit)

December 24th Christmas Eve Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Evening Prayer -Service of Light 7:00 p.m.

December 25th Christmas Day Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

December 31st Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

Offering Dec. 3, 2023

Average weekly need \$13,818

Home Fund Env. \$6,885.72

Synod 28.83

Loose 233.30

Scholarship Fund

Improvement Fund 95.85

Endowment Fund

Music Fund

Sunday School

Flower Fund 500.00

Copy Machine Use 10.00

School Phase II 100.00

Total \$7,853.70

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance (\$192.12)

Next week bills due: \$14,000

Bills due two weeks: \$14,000

Savings Account Balance \$40,622.93

Borrowed from Savings: (\$2,100)

Operating Loan Debt: (\$29,750)

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday 179/133

Wednesday 61/51

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

Recite Together:

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.

Scripture Reading and/or Devotion Lesson

Prayers and Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

What is Galatians 5:17?

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:17