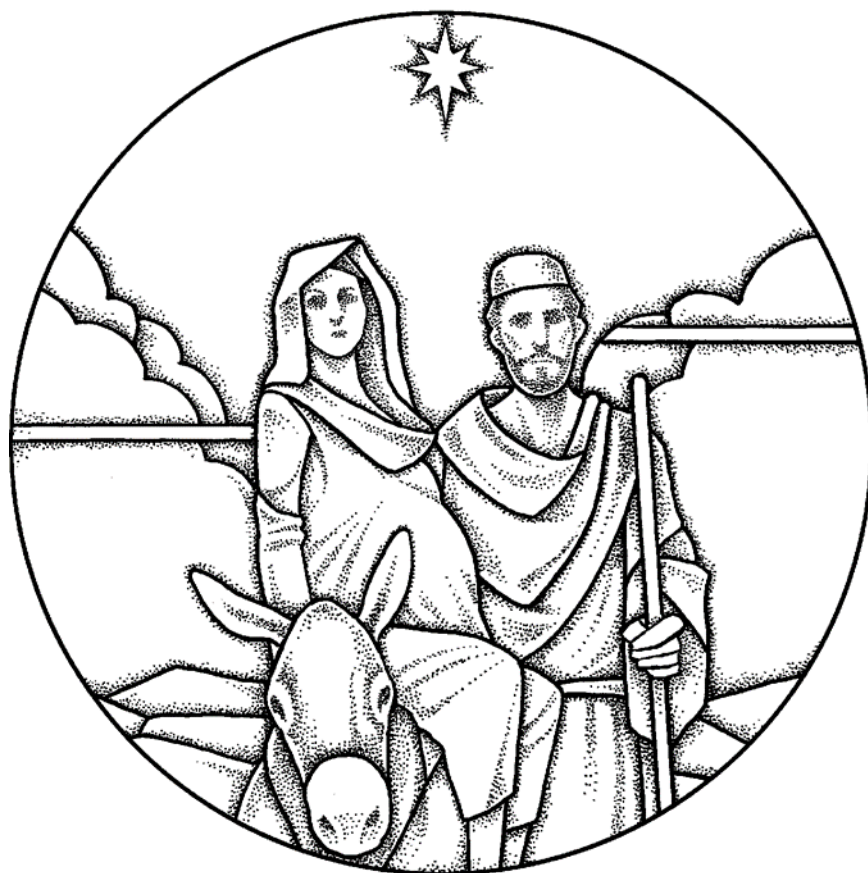


# Welcome to Worship!

○ COME, ○ COME,  
Emmanuel



**Children's Christmas Service**  
**December 19, 2021**



# Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 19, 2021



### AS WE GATHER:

How have you felt while waiting for the arrival of someone you've heard a lot about and eagerly desired to meet? Now think of the people of old who longed for God's coming among them as a fellow human being who would make a way for their rescue and deliverance from all that weighed them down in life. That's where *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* connects us to them! The Advent-leading-to-Christmas prayers that give us the images and language of this beloved hymn were in use in Rome already by the 9<sup>th</sup> century and were put into verse form in the 12<sup>th</sup>—still in Latin. The English translation, in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, made the hymn available to many more people far and wide throughout the world. The tune is thought to be from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and pulls at people of every generation through its holy and stirring sound of stunning awe, eager longing, and joyful fulfillment. We thank the children of our congregation for helping us explore its richness today!

### REGARDING COMMUNION

*Advent calls our attention to Jesus—the Word made flesh who came among us, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)—who comes to us still in the bread of His Body and wine of His Blood in Holy Communion and will come again on the last day. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we celebrate and receive Christ's Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us so that we might show forth his death and resurrection until He comes. Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.*

#### **Liturgical Color:**

***Blue is the color of water and sky, thus hope, for the baptized who know Christ came down from heaven to earth and is coming again.***

Prelude .....Rich Vanderburgh

## Welcome

### *Stand*

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### *Confession and Absolution*

**P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A Time of silence is observed.*

**P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**C** Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**C** according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

## Kyrie for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

4 For-give us, Lord, for times when love was lost, And  
mo-ments when we nev-er thought to care, For

times when we de - stroy and sub - due The  
 Word that brings Your peo - ple close to You.  
 For - give, for - give, for - give us all our  
 sins And help us love so new - ness can be - gin.

Text: © 2015 Stephen M. Fearing. Used by permission: Tune: Public domain. Creative Worship License no. 110003555

**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.

## Invocation Hymn..... "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #357

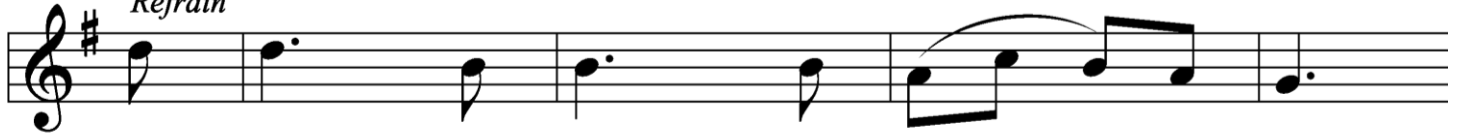
*(Verses 1-3 will be sung by the children)*  
*(Verses 4-6 will be sung by the congregation)*  
*(The last verse will be sung by everyone)*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

*Sit*

## The Jesse Tree

**Old Testament Reading**.....**Micah 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
 from you shall come forth for me  
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
 whose origin is from of old,  
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.**

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

**Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.** (*Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:26*)

**Epistle Reading** ..... **Hebrews 10:5-10**

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Prophecy Hymn ..... "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Great "O" Antiphons

*Each stanza of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" highlights an Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. The hymn's rhyming verse dates to the mid-1800s, but it draws from a much older tradition.*

*For several centuries, the Church has chanted a set of responsive verses, or antiphons, on the days leading up to Christmas Eve—from December 17 to 23. These antiphons, traditionally sung before and after the Magnificat (Mary's song of praise on finding out about her pregnancy), focus attention on Christ's fulfillment of several Old Testament prophecies.*

*In today's service, we will hear the Scriptural basis of each antiphon, pray it responsively, and see the prayer fulfilled in Jesus—Emmanuel—"God with us."*



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And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. — *Isaiah 11:2*



O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, spreading through and filling all creation, mightily ordering all things:

**☞ Come and teach us the way of wisdom.**

But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. — *1 Corinthians 1:23–24*

---

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” — *Exodus 20:1–2*



O Adonai (Lord) and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

**☞ Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” — *Matthew 2:6*

---

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. — *Isaiah 11:10*



O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

**☞ Come quickly to deliver us.**

And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” — *Revelation 5:5*

---

And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. — *Isaiah 22:22*



O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:



**☪ Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness.**

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.’” — *Revelation 3:7–8*

---

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. — *Isaiah 9:2*



O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**☪ Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

“Through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” — *Luke 1:78–79 (RSV)*

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. — *Isaiah 9:6*



O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

**☪ Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.**

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’” — *Matthew 21:42*

---

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. — *Genesis 49:10*



O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

**☪ Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). — *Matthew 1:23 (cf. Isaiah 7:14)*

**Fulfillment Hymn**..... “*God Loves Me Dearly*” #392  
*(Children Only)*



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.

*Refrain*



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Tune and text: Public domain

**Stand**

**Holy Gospel** ..... **Luke 1:39-56 & 2:1-20**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first and second chapters.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Sermon**..... "Promise Kept/Prayer Answered"

*Stand*

**Response Hymn** ..... "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" #390



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - jice, His own Son hath giv - en.  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## Offering

*Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.*

“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

## Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy** .....pages 208-209

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also 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.

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



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life....

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**Agnus Dei**.....page 210



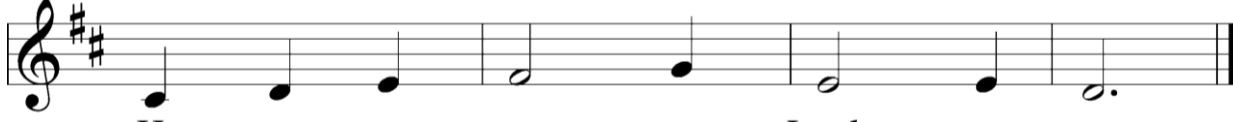
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

## Communion Distribution

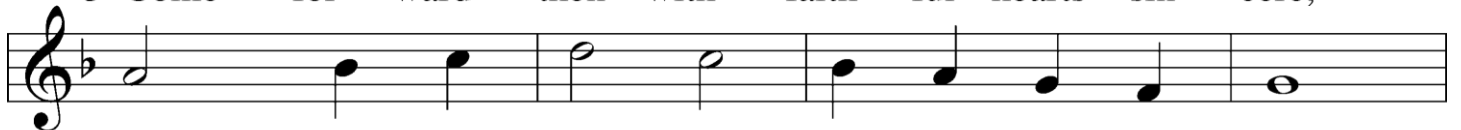
*Distribution of the Lord's gifts in Holy Communion is in standing format with Pastor and the Elder near the chancel steps. You will be released by the usher to head forward. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Common Cup and Individual plastic cups are being used, so if you're not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.*

**Solo** ..... "Breath of Heaven"  
(Penny and Abby Humphrey)

## Congregational Hymn..... "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord", #637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Instrumental Music for Reflection

### Stand

## Post Communion Canticle ..... "Nunc Dimittis" page 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



**Post-Communion Collect**..... page 212

**P** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Benedicamus and Benediction**..... page 212

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**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** Amen.

**Sending Hymn**..... *"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" #386*



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

# Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

**P** Grow in Christ,

**C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

# Postlude ..... Rich Vanderburgh

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 54** **Attendance Last Sunday: 82**

**Attendance Advent: 16**

**Total Offering: \$8,410.00**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Home Use: \$8,087.00**

**Benevolences: \$323.00**

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## Serving us today:

Elders..... Caleb Thomas, Jeremy VanWey

Musicians ..... Rich Vanderburgh

Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,  
Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills, Sheree Moody

Flower Committee ..... Eunice Cobb (Chair), Lori Sloan

## This Week's Schedule

Today	12:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday		<i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
	7:00 p.m.	"Advent of the Savior" Bible Study (Zoom)
Friday		<i>Office Closed-Christmas Eve</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Saturday		<i>Christmas Day</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Worship

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School, Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

***Saints Remembered This Week:***

*"Next to Holy Scripture there is certainly no more useful book for Christendom than that of the lives of the saints." +Martin Luther*

*(See what you can learn about these Christians from the past that helps you in the present.)*

*+St. Thomas, Apostle of Jesus (First Century)-December 21*

*+St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr (First Century)-December 26*

*"Celebrating the Saints"* by William Weedon introduces us to a collection of feasts and festivals, as well as saints in both Testaments and from nineteen centuries of the Church's life. Historical sketches and devotional writings in step with the liturgical calendar in *Lutheran Service Book* reveal these saints not as great exceptions, but great examples of our heavenly Father's faithfulness. Each section also features a prayer, hymn stanza, and additional suggested readings.

As you encounter the lives of these men and women redeemed by the Lamb, you'll gaze into "a mirror of the grace and mercy of God" (Martin Luther). Our fellow heirs of eternal life serve but a humble purpose—to point us to *the Saint, the Holy One, our Lord Jesus Christ*. Check it out at [cph.org](http://cph.org).

**Prayers**

**For Comfort in Loss** to all who grieve loved ones, most recently Judy Pierce and her family at the death of her son Chris this past Tuesday. May Christ our living Lord be their strength and stay!

**Of Rejoicing** for Carolyn Faber upon her undergraduate graduation from Mizzou this past Friday. May the Lord continue to bless and guide her on her path ahead!

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from

surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Sue Cottrill, Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Heather Long (Carol Kurz's niece), Lynn Lowe, Ron McComas, Johnny Nichol, Ron Niemeyer, Pam Petersen (Peggy Hoyer's sister), Jim Rudy, and Joe Zeman.

**For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers)**, especially Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown's daughter & son-in-law). May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Gabe Crespo, Chance Hillsman.

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

**LCMS Disaster Relief Program**—as the recent storms caused quite a bit of damage across parts of Missouri and other states, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long term needs following natural and man-made disasters. You can donate to this cause by going to the webpage at [lcms.org/givenow/disaster](https://lcms.org/givenow/disaster).

### **Worship Services**

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](https://blchurch.com).

**Midweek Advent Services** are being held on the Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve—the **22<sup>nd</sup> yet—at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. As in past years, we're using the beautiful and renewing Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year—***When Heaven Meets Earth, with Questions and Answers***. Each week has a different theme, and we **have** yet to cover "*The Hidden King: Why Would He Go Unrecognized?*" Plan on setting aside this time for a quiet and contemplative keeping of the short and often crowded-out season of Advent!

**Advent Offerings**, using the seasonal envelopes and not designated elsewhere, will go to the Food Banks at our two denominational seminaries: Concordia—St. Louis and Concordia—Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services** will be held on **December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** Let others know, invite, and attend as you can! We gather around the very reason this holy day is called Christmas—Jesus, the Word made flesh! **Offerings for Christmas Eve, not designated elsewhere, will go to Recovery Lighthouse and Refuge on Ming.**

**Christmas Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Christmas** we will be holding a service of Lessons and Carols. The theme will be “*God Pitching His Tent and Dwelling Among Us*”. We will be having Christmas Lessons/Reading and Carols/Hymn throughout the service.

**New Year’s Eve Service** will be held on **December 31 at 7:00 p.m.** Invite others and come yourself on this Watch Night as we reflect, in Scripture and song, on the Lord who keeps us in his mercy and grace throughout all passage of time. **Offerings for New Year’s Eve, not designated elsewhere, will go toward Pastor’s Emergency Fund.**

### [Sunday School and Christian Education](#)

**Sunday School for PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade begins at 9:15 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for children and youth to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in love toward the Lord and our neighbors, as Jesus said matters most!

### [Faith Discussion and Bible Study](#)

**Saturday Bible Study** on the Gospel of Matthew follows the evening service (from **6:45 to 7:30 p.m.** in the conference room) if enough people are present to have a class. Consider joining us as we explore the life and ministry of Jesus.

**Sunday Bible Study** is working through the recent book *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation*, as well as through companion passages in Scripture, so that we can all more firmly believe and live through Christ’s own life, death, and resurrection. Plan on joining us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.**

**Thursday Advent Zoom Bible Study.** We will be discussing God’s forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. The last class will be held on **Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 pm.**

### [Fellowship](#)

**Exercise Class** will not meet until **Wednesday, January 5, 2022.** Have a great Christmas and New Year’s break.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come and play board games or

cards. Bring a game and a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### Miscellaneous

**Country Kitchen Cards are available!** You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

### Offerings

**Envelope List**—It is that time of year again! New offering envelopes will be distributed by the end of the year. If you currently have a box of envelopes and do not want them for 2022 please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 15<sup>th</sup>. She will remove you from the envelope list. If you don't currently have a box of envelopes and would like one, please let Teresa Hillsman know by December 15<sup>th</sup>. She will add you to the list. Drop her an email at [financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com) or put a note in her box. Thank you.

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate with a prayer of trust for you, or you may also place your offering in the plate in the Narthex.

*Simply Giving* is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.

### Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-H) 660-679-8121, [willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com](mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

**Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com)



Thank you to Ellen Pederson for her amazing job she has done with the Sunday School Program.

Thank you to Penny Humphrey for leading rehearsals, Rich Vanderburgh for the piano accompaniment and Ann Papisifakis for donation of the "O Antiphons" prints.

Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers whom have provided the children with religious instruction each week.

Thanks to Thrivent for the yummy treat sacks they prepared.

Thanks to the Fellowship Board for the ornaments they have provided for the congregation this Christmas season.

Lastly, thank you to all the children for their presentation today.

Zach Brown  
Haley Clemons  
Delaney Clemons  
Phil Freeman  
Katy Freeman  
Stori Hulshizer  
Rosie Hulshizer

Abby Humphrey  
Aedan Pederson  
Noah Pederson  
Killian Pederson  
Silas Pederson  
Mila Sullins  
Neil Tebbencamp

Luke Tebbencamp  
Kersten Thomas  
Trevor Thomas  
Connor Thomas  
LauraBeth VanWey  
Bryce VanWey



## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [pastor@blchurch.com](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com) Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.