



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
801 Tieton Drive

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“Connecting People to Jesus”

VISITORS: Welcome!! Please sign our Guest Book and introduce yourself to Pastor Mark Griesse.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION 1st, 3rd & 5th SUNDAYS: Please see our Communion Statement on preceding page.

A NURSERY AND RESTROOM are located at the front of the sanctuary on the left hand side. Families with small children are welcome to use the nursery as needed.

ELEVATOR: We have an elevator for use as needed to get to the social hall. Please see an usher if you wish to use it.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord’s final entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week. Yes, Christmas is at hand. Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way. But wait a moment. We enter this new year already knowing why He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit for us and for our salvation, which is only by way of His passion, death, and resurrection. We begin by continuing to “wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ” on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 1:7), sustained by Him now in the

forgiveness of our sins, guiltless and ready. In readiness, we boldly pray that our Lord comes to rescue and save us.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” :

[LSB 355]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6puXONf530>

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.
- 2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob’s line rain down the King.
- 3 O earth, in flow’ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.

O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.

- 7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

Pastor: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.

Pastor: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

People: I do confess.

Pastor: So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

People: I do repent.

Pastor: So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins? **People: I do believe.**

Pastor: So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

People: I do promise.

Pastor: So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Pastor: As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.



HYMN

“We Light the Advent Candle”

[Tune: LSB 343]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d18eufpw0v4>

We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God’s favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1–9

(Rend the heavens and come down)

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—

²^[a] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?^[b]

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in^[c] the hand of our iniquities.

⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Reader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Reader: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Reader: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

(Thanksgiving)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Psalm 24:7

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

(Jesus Words Concerning His Second Coming)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake.^[a] For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants^[b] in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows,^[c] or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

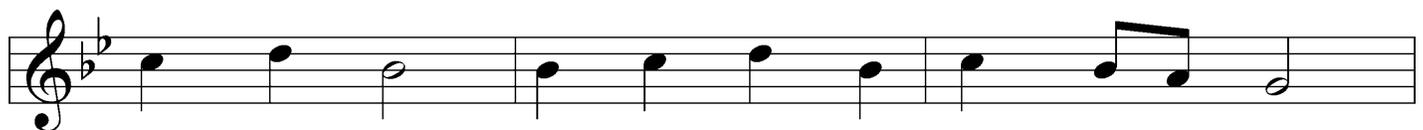
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior of the Nations, Come” [LSB 332]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0jO8e8pkw>



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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SERMON

"You'd Better Watch Out"

Mark 13:33-37

There is a popular song that you begin to hear about this time of the year. It goes like this: "Oh you better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout I'm telling you why, Santa Claus is coming to town. It's a song that we like to sing to our children, perhaps to impress upon them the advantages of behaving like their parent would like them to. It's a time of year when most children are making out lists and letting their parents know what they want to

get for Christmas. The stores have all sorts of new gadgets, toys, clothes, you name it, on the selves. Television ads remind us of all these new things that we couldn't possibly do without, budgets are forgotten and we are all on our best behavior.

This is also a time of year that the church calls Advent. Advent means to come to. And so at this time of year we celebrate the fact that Christ has come to, is coming to, and will come to the Church. This Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and today we place special emphasis on the fact that Christ will come to the Church, an event that is referred to as the Second Coming of Christ. And so perhaps the popular song: "You'd better watch out, you'd better not cry, you'd better not pout, I'm telling you why," has special meaning to us today because Jesus, The anointed King is coming and we need to be ready for it.

Our text for this morning is the Gospel taken from Mark 13. From this reading I believe we can concentrate on three things.

1. Christ is coming unexpectedly
2. Christ is coming as king
3. We need to be prepared for his coming

1. First of all, Christ is coming unexpectedly.

In the time of the Apostles the feeling was very strong that Christ would reappear within their lifetime. Two thousand years have past and we still wait for his coming. Has the Church cried wolf so many times that now the message falls on deaf ears. Jesus predicted this kind of complacency in Matthew 24. He said that His second coming will be just like the days of Noah. Men were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up until the final day when Noah went into the ark. In other words the people of that day were living life as usual, conducting business, building their own kingdoms, paying no attention to God, while one man was building an ark.

Is the Church today conducting business as usual. Eating, drinking, marrying, going on with everyday business, or is the Church today building an ark? Showing the rest of the world by its actions that it is waiting for someone, far more important than Santa Claus. What are the Messianic expectation that we have? In Jesus day there were those who were looking for a King who would set them free from all other foreign governments and set up their own earthly government in which the chosen people would rule the world. There were others who had given up on the idea of a Messiah but

looked for the day when God Himself would shake the heavens and set them free as he had done in the Exodus event and again in the Babylonian Exile. Still others were looking for a super human God/Man to rise up destroy and obliterate all heathen people and turn Jerusalem into a heavenly city. Each one of them held on to their particular vision with such zeal that when Jesus did come to the stable in Bethlehem, they missed him. Or perhaps, He just didn't fit into their plans for how God should act so they rejected him.

Today, many speculate on when or how Jesus will come again. But we do not know the time or the hour. What we do know is how. "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archd with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess. 4:17-18) But you know it really doesn't matter how He comes. What really matters is that He is coming. The Bible tells us that His coming will be like that of a thief in the night. And our text for today says we should watch and be alert for it.

2. **Secondly, Christ is coming as King.**

The gospel text from a couple of weeks ago was from Matthew 25, where Christ talks about his role as king. He will separate the sheep from the goats, the righteous from the unrighteous, the believers in Christ from the unbelievers. This will be the final event in human history. The final event in the Drama. History from the beginning has been building up to this final event. Sometimes by looking at the past more closely we become better equipped for the present and the future. In the beginning God created man in harmony with Himself and with his fellowman. Man destroyed that harmony by rebelling against God in the garden. Since that time, God has been in the process of restoring the relationships between God and man and man and man.

The sad part of the story is that not all will be ready when he comes. The Bible describes many times the blessings that are available to those who do not reject Christ. Unfortunately for those who do reject Christ there is also a list of curses. Deuteronomy 28 is perhaps the best illustration of this in the Old Testament... Despite this rather vivid list, God has been patient and merciful, showering his gifts upon the just and the unjust alike. But the message of Advent tells us that there will be that one final day when Christ will come as King and ask for an account from all His servants. We must be prepared to

give that account. Which brings me to the final point for this morning. How can we be prepared, how can we be watching out for his coming.

3. We need to be prepared for his coming

How then do we prepare for his coming. There is only one way to be prepared for the King. Jesus said it loud and clear in the Gospel according to Mark. Repent and believe in the Gospel, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Now the meaning of repent is more than just saying your sorry. Repent means to change directions. Biblically there are only two directions, good and evil. The man walking in sin must turn 180 degrees and walk in the other direction, the way of the cross. Those who walk in the way of the cross demonstrate by their words and actions that they are following the command of their King. The command to be watchmen for the rest of the world proclaiming the arrival of the King.

By watching out we are able to overcome with the Spirit's help our natural desire to watch in. To look out for only our own good. To look out only for #1. God calls us to be watchmen preparing others for the coming of the king.

Being a watchman is not an easy task. It means staying alert even when we are tired. But that is why we have help. The King has sent His Spirit to make us strong. He has given us other Christians to help keep us awake and alert for the coming of the King. Together we worship, together we prepare, together we forgive and are forgiven. The Spirit of the living God is our sustainer who gives us the faith to hold on to the promises that are ours when the King arrives. Our text tells us that he could arrive today, or perhaps it will be another two thousand years. Let me put it this way. There is not much practical difference between being ready for the Messiah and being ready for our own death. In plain truth, by the grace of God this is the only day I have. Then, how small of me, on my last day, to be sour and surly. How dangerous, on my last day, to be found running from God. On the other hand, what a privilege, on my last day, to be living in the presence of God. What a breath of fresh air, on my last day, to be honest and open with my family, forgiving and being forgiven, loving and being loved. What a pleasure, on my last day, to give honor to every neighbor, to respect the image of God in every color, to reverence the blood of Christ shed for each Jew and Gentile, each male and female, each slave and free person. This is the only day I have. I live it in view of eternity, without being frightened by my King, without needing to ease

my inner tension by making light of the Lord. I dare to live in His presence because he has clothed my nakedness sinfulness with the righteousness of his Son.

So the hope of the second Advent of Christ is a joyous occasion. It really helps us now in this present moment, affecting our view of ourselves and our attitude toward others. It rescues us from merely existing, eating drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. It is the joyful hope of all Christians giving taste and zest and meaning to our lives. So we watch, and wait, and pray... trusting our Lord who has promised us eternal life, he is coming-- Jesus the King is coming and we want to be ready for him.

NICENE CREED

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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING TO THE LORD'S WORK IS GATHERED

(Offerings can be placed in the collection plate by the Entry of the sanctuary)

OFFERTORY

(p. 956 in hymnal)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, our Father, we give You thanks that You bring us once again into a new Church Year whereby we confess and proclaim Your great love for the world in the sending of Your only-begotten Son as the Child of the Virgin Mary, the Lamb proclaimed by John the Baptist, the teacher of the holy apostles, the sacrifice for the sins of the world on the cross, and the risen Savior of all, who will come again in glory on the Last Day. Lord, keep us in this confession and faith, and bless its proclamation throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Supply Your whole Church on earth with faithful pastors and laborers who will continually feed and lead Your people, rightly proclaiming Your Word, administering Your Holy Sacraments, and caring for all in their charge. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: That we may live in peace and safety, we ask You to continually bless those in the authority of government, the President and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Grant that they rule according to Your good pleasure by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Comfort, O Lord, all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Grant healing, peace, and courage for all bearing their crosses to Your praise and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down to us at Christmas and now comes to us by Your Spirit in Your Word, we pray for His final coming to deliver us all in the great day of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

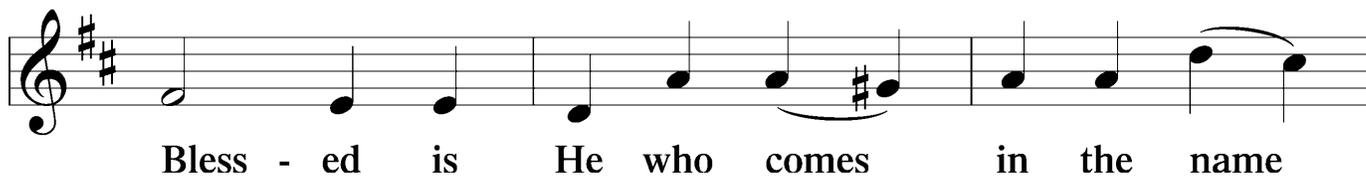
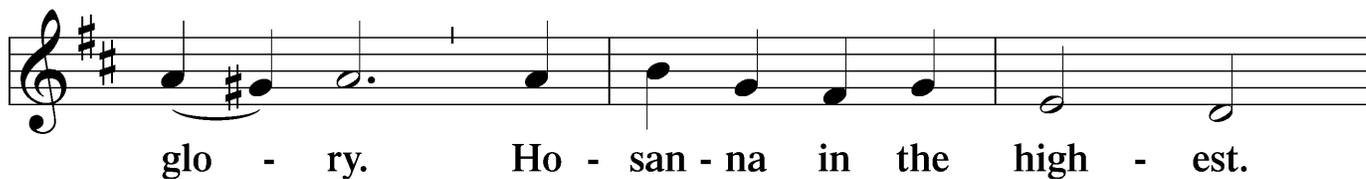
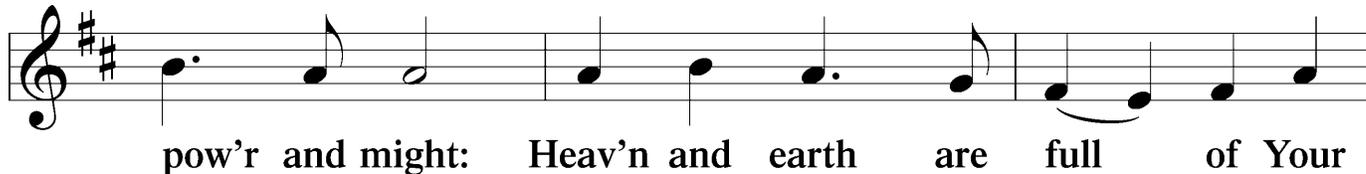
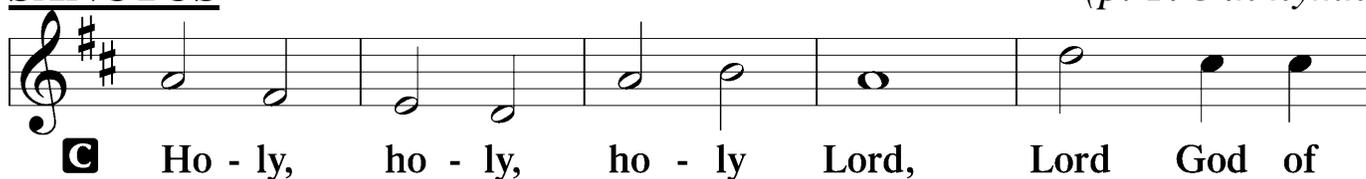
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

(p. 178 in hymnal)



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus *Revelation 22:20*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

All: 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

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(p. 180 in hymnal)



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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

We receive Holy Communion today. *We believe that we are sinners forgiven by Jesus Christ. We repent of our sins. We are baptized children of the one true God. We believe that, as Jesus said, His body and blood are truly present in and with the bread and wine. As we partake of this sacrament, we also express our unity in faith with our fellow believers. We come at Jesus’ invitation for He is the host. If these are also your beliefs, you are welcome at the communion table.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Hark the Glad Sound” [LSB 349]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP07fPpaDNo>

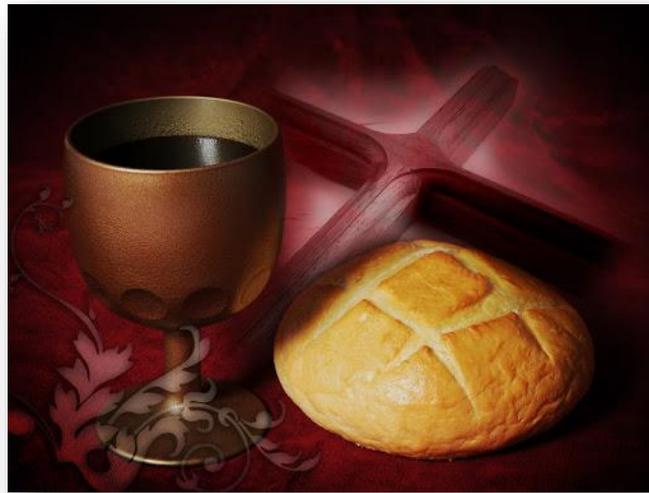
1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOZRRjmIgYQ>

[LSB 348]

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1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
 But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
 And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
 The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates” [LSB 341]

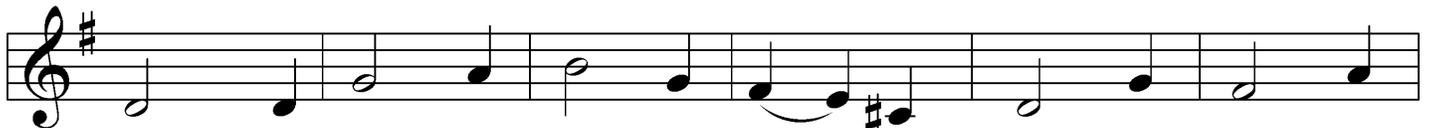
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD6FnA5p0bU>



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide, My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame, We offer to Thy name.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(p. 181 in hymnal)



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

[LSB 353]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZwk4ASIdps>



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

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News and Notes

Celebrating Birthdays 12-1 **Keith Boss**
12-1 **Barry McKelheer**
12-4 **Gisela Trivette**

Events this week

Monday	11-30	LWML Board Meeting	1:00pm
Tuesday	12-1	Women's Bible Study	9:45am

Newsletter articles due today

Call Bethlehem 509-457-5822 and leave a message if you plan on attending the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services on December 24th @5:30 pm or December 25th @ 11am @ Bethlehem-- As of today we are allowed 75 people.

Please pick up an Advent Devotion Book "Jesse Tree" today for use during the Advent season. There is a children's book also. Take one for your grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

Yellow prayer request cards are available at the entryway. If you want a prayer included in the service today, please fill out the card and give it to the usher before being seated. Thank you

Human Care committee update: Union Gospel Mission is asking for firewood. The committee has donated a cord of wood. If you wish to help with future donations for this project, please designate your donation with your offering.

Health kit items needed—The Salvation Army is in need of health kits, please help by bringing in an item or two. A list is provided as you leave. **HAND TOWELS ARE NEEDED THE MOST AT THIS TIME. Thank you for helping those in need.**

In Our Prayers we pray especially for:

- **Becky, Joan Lillich's daughter** is scheduled for a double mastectomy this coming Tuesday.
- **Rudy Kelley** awaiting test results regarding his reoccurring lung cancer
- **Gail Jacobson** is recovering from foot surgery this week
- **Jane Smith** is beginning radiation treatments this week.
- **Ruby Gutschmidt** continued healing of her broken tailbone
- **We continue to pray for Jan Brydsen, Ron Garland and Mala Barik**
- **Roy Bennett** at Good Samaritan undergoing rehab..
- **For our loved ones with cancer:** Karianna, Melanie, Rudy and Becky.

