

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024



Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love - we are God's people.

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

First Sunday of Advent

ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship—red hymnal

PRELUDE

Welcome, Announcements, Celebration Bank

(money given to Human Concerns Fund)

We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation,
arriving soon.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

ELW Hymn 239

GREETING

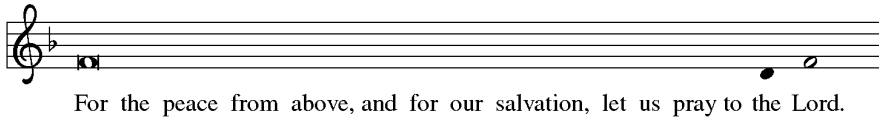
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

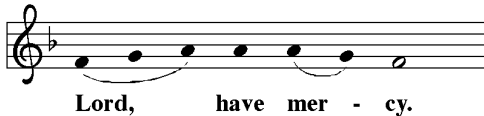
Kyrie



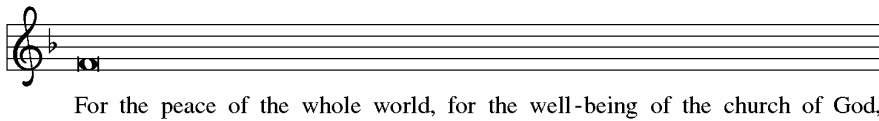
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



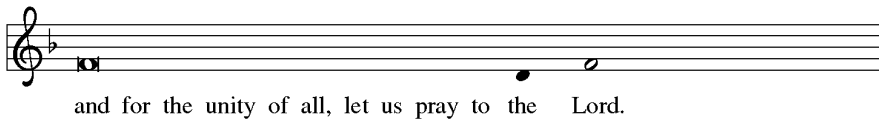
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



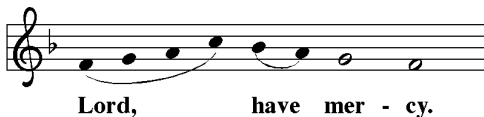
Lord, have mer - cy.



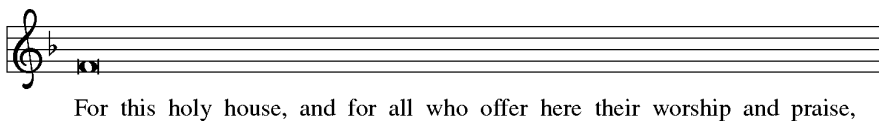
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



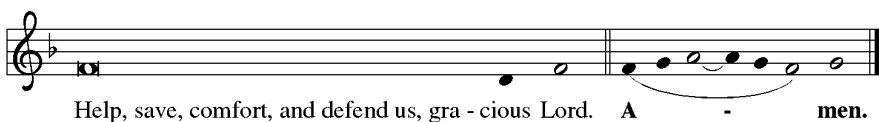
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.


Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was




slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 25:1-10

P: To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

**C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

L: Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**C: Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**C: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

L: Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

**C: You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

L: You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**C: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

P: The Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

ELW Hymn 251

We Respond to God's Word

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(unison)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. *
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please Stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

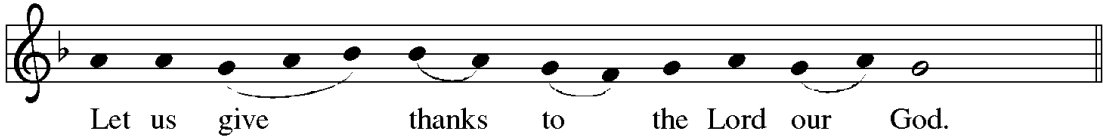
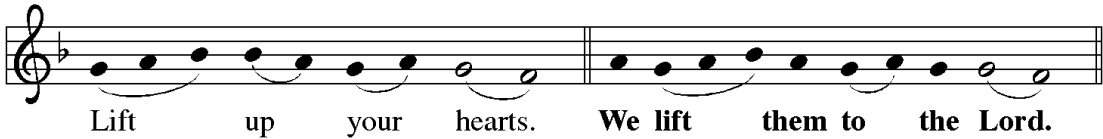
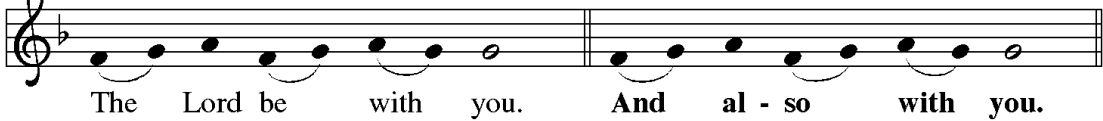
Each petition concludes:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

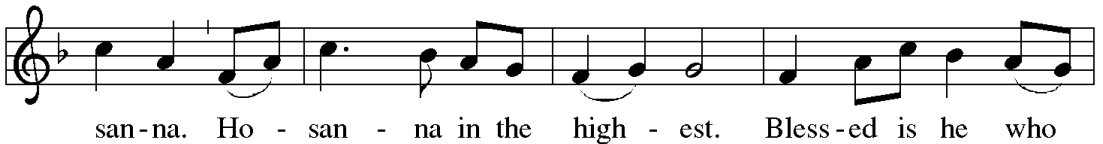
C: **receive our prayer.**

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please stand)



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

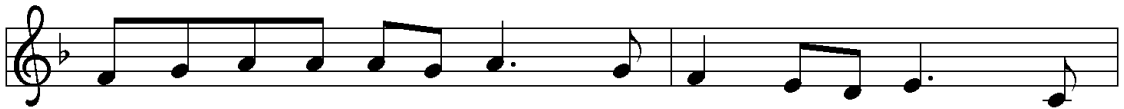
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

(Please be seated)

LAMB OF GOD



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 BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*“Blessed Assurance”
“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”*

ELW Hymn 638

ELW Hymn 470

(Please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

ELW Hymn 552

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Vicki Stoller
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Steve & Sue Rogers
Greeters:	Bill Mundt
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Jim & Sharon Martindale
Remember in prayer:	Jim & Bev Felland; Geneive Hingst; Dorothy Hopson

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A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right.
There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters
who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week.
Ask our usher for help.

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship
hall following the worship service. We would like to
get to know you and offer our friendship.

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	First Sunday of Advent
	9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m. Church Outreach
	10:15 a.m. Ukrainian family meeting & fellowship
	10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
	12:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens
Monday:	Noon Retired School Personnel meeting
Wednesday:	6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Advent Meal
	7:00 p.m. "Bless This Night" Vesper Service
Thursday:	9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
Friday:	Noon Nurses mtg.
Next Sunday:	Second Sunday of Advent
	9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m. Church Life
	10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The hanging of the greens will be this Sunday, December 1 at 12pm! Please come and help us decorate for the Christmas season!

UKRAINIAN FAMILY MEETING

Please stay after worship service on Sunday, December 1 for a meeting & fellowship with the Ukrainian family that Kim Engle is sponsoring!

FIRST ADVENT MEAL

On Wednesday, December 4th, Bethany will be providing the meal for Mid-week Advent service. Maid-rites & drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish, sides, or dessert to share. Please keep a watch in your bulletins for updates for 12/11 & 12/18 meal plans. Thank you.

ANGEL TREE

All of our Angel tags have been claimed for wishes/needs being fulfilled! You all are amazing! If you are wanting to participate in gift giving for a child in need and didn't get a chance to get a tag, you may also get some toys for a girl or boy (or both if you wish) and place under the tree. Those gifts will go to The Salvation Army's Toy Shoppe that they started this year! All gifts must be under the tree, unwrapped and in a sack with the angel tag attached (if your gift is for an angel tag) before December 11. Envelopes will also be added for monetary donations for the Ukrainian family that Kim Engles is sponsoring. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Engle.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

Today (Sunday, December 1) is the last day for Poinsettia Orders! If you are needing a Poinsettia, please fill out an order form in your bulletin and place in the offering plate with payment. Poinsettias are \$17.50 this year.

OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Continuing through December, food donations will be "Holiday helpers"! Items you would use for a holiday meal (dry goods), example: boxed stuffing, pie filling, green beans, cookie mixes, etc... Thank you all for your generosity!

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*Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org*

***Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382;
damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com***

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Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock
Cory Byrne
Kim Engle
Wendy Bell
Michelle Huppenbauer
Pam Crable

Pastor
Organist/Choir Director
Stephen Minister Coordinator
Office Administrator
Financial Secretary
Custodian