

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## December 22, 2024



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

# Fourth 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

Chelf Family

F: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

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

“My Soul Does Magnify the Lord”

ELW Hymn 882

GREETING

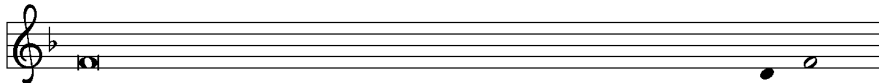
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



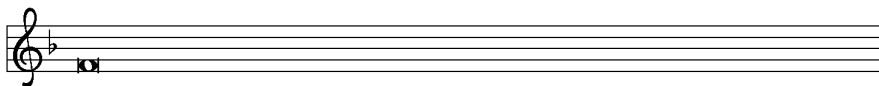
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



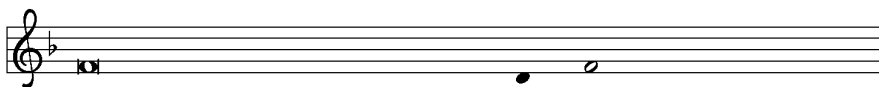
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



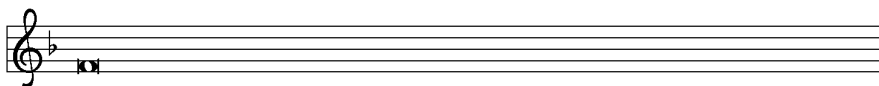
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



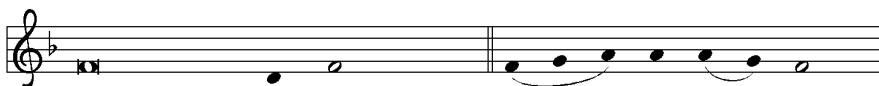
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



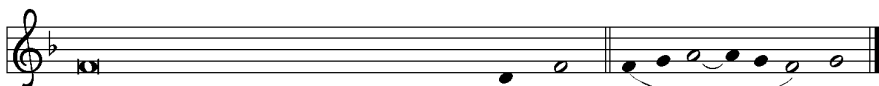
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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

## CHRISTMAS ANTHEM

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Bethany Choir

# We Listen to God’s Word

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 80:1-7**

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

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

L: Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

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

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

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1st chapter.

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

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: 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**

***"Canticle of the Turning"***

**ELW Hymn 723**



# 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.

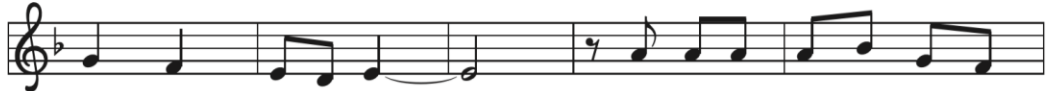
(Please be seated)

# THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## There Is a Longing in Our Hearts



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1	For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2	For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3	For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4	Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



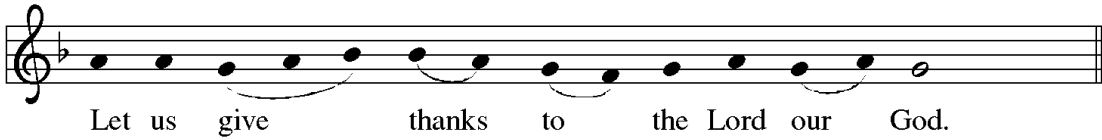
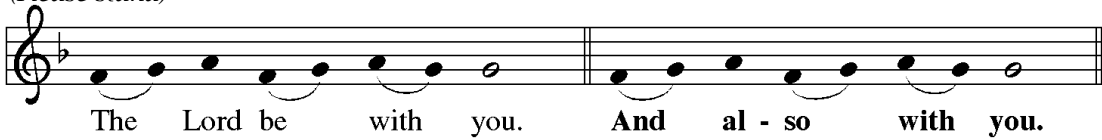
hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

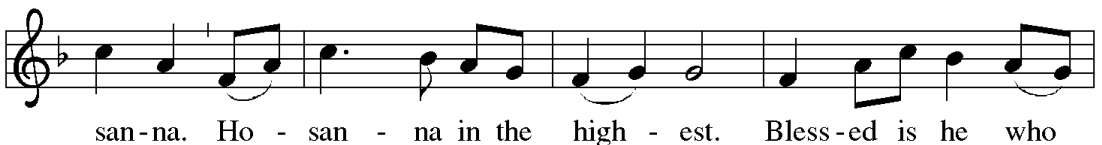
# We Share in the Holy Meal

*(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

*“We Come to the Hungry Feast”  
“What Feast of Love”*

**ELW Hymn 479**

**ELW Hymn 487**

*(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

*“Send Forth by God’s Blessing”*

**ELW Hymn 547**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Carlene Woodside  
Usher: Susan Swanson  
Communion: Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt  
Greeters: Vicki Stoller  
Missionary Support: Open  
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias  
Remember in prayer: Dorothy Hopson; Barb West; Norma Bock; Eleonore Benninghoven

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
8:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
**Choir to sing Christmas Anthem**  
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

Tuesday: **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
5:00 p.m. @ Bethany  
7:00 p.m. @ Messiah  
11:00 p.m. @ Messiah

Wednesday: **Office Closed: Merry Christmas!!**

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah

Next Sunday: **First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Hymn Sing!-Hymns will come from the congregation**  
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

## CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

We still need one more person to assist with Communion on Christmas Eve! Please  
get a hold of Wendy in the office, or let Pastor Misha know if you are able to help!  
Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00pm at Bethany. If you are needing a  
later service, Messiah will hold services at 7:00pm & 11:00pm as well!

## **NEW YEAR, NEW SETTING**

We will be moving to a new setting in our liturgy. Starting January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be using setting 6!

## **A REQUEST FROM PATTY CHACEY**

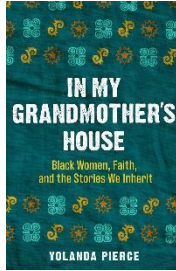
Patty Chacey would love to have some visitors come see her! She is currently out at Klein's Nursing Home.

## **HYMN SING DECEMBER 29**

On Sunday, December 29, we are having a Hymn sing! This is where the Hymns for Worship service will be picked from the congregation! So have your favorite Hymns picked out and be ready to shout them out! You will need the title and number for the Hymn!

## **PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB!**

Pastor's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Bethany. We are reading "In My Grandmother's House" By Yolanda Pierce.



## **UKRAINIAN RENT RELIEF**

We have some red envelopes on our Angel Tree! These envelopes are for monetary donations or gift cards for food or gas, to help the Ukrainian family that Kim & Jeff Engle are sponsoring! The envelopes give a detail on how your donations will go to help with their rent. To donate, just take a red envelope off of the tree and place your donation inside and drop in the offering plate on Sunday. This will be going on through December.

## **OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

We will not have donations for January for food pantry. We are still taking donations through the end of December for holiday meals items! Thank you everyone for your generosity!

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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