

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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.

Second 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

Morehead Family

F: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
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

"He Came Down"

ELW Hymn 253

GREETING

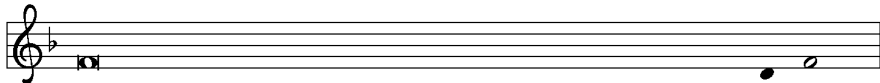
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



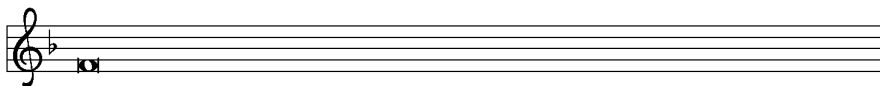
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



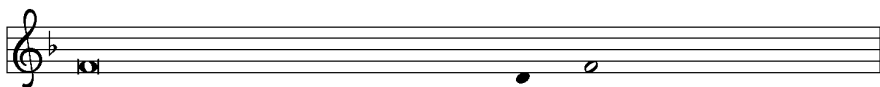
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



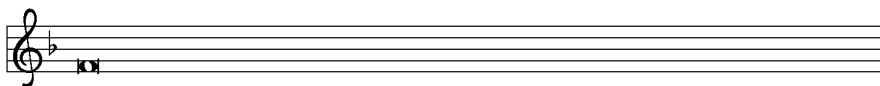
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



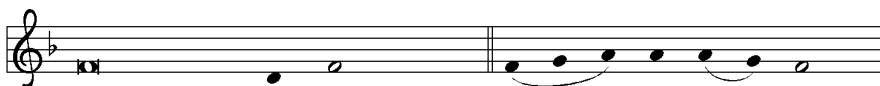
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



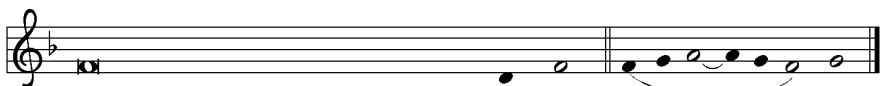
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- L: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
- C: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**
- L: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our
enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
- C: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
- L: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
- C: In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

- 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 3rd chapter.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW Hymn 264

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



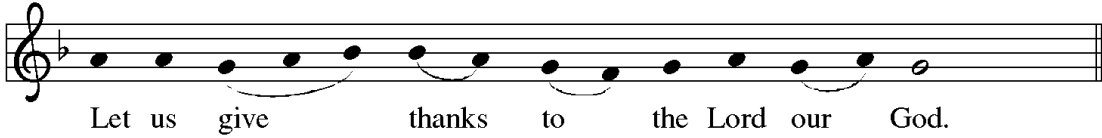
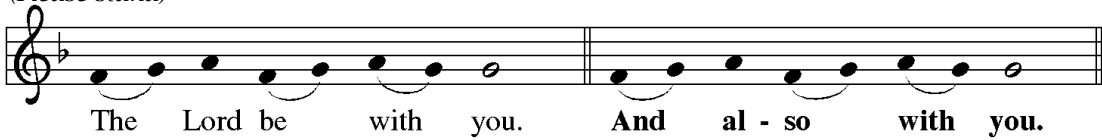
hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



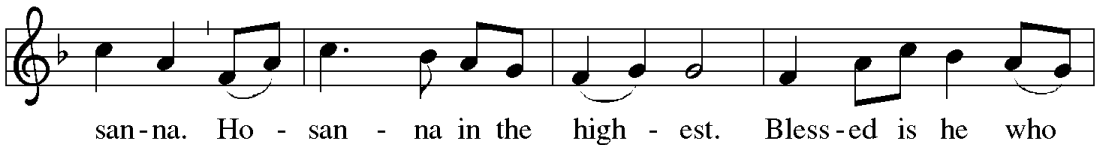
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

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)*

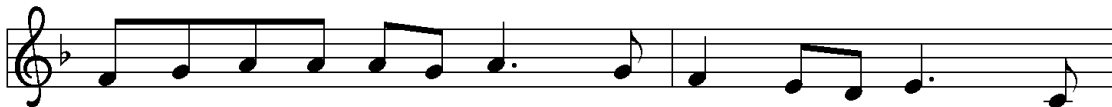
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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

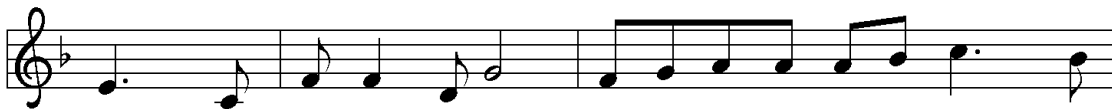
LAMB OF GOD



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

*“I Come With Joy”
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

ELW Hymn 482

ELW Hymn 490

(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

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

ELW Hymn 538

THE DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Mike Hopp
Usher: Susan Swanson
Communion: Mark Rosenberg; Bill Mundt
Greeters: Carol Dodge
Missionary Support: Open
Altar Flowers: Kathy Beach
Remember in prayer: Barb West, Norma Bock, Eleonore Benninghoven

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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: **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

Monday: 6:30 p.m. Property 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
6:00 p.m. Executive Committee mtg.
6:30 p.m. Finance Mtg.

Next Sunday: **Third Sunday of Advent**
8:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE

Mid-week Advent Service is on Wednesday nights during Advent season. Meal will start at 6pm and Vesper Service to start at 7pm. Meal for December 11 will be provided by Messiah!

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On December 19 at 6:00pm will be a Blue Christmas service at Unity Lutheran Church. This is a service of music and readings for those who struggle with loss during the Christmas season.

UKRAINIAN MEET AND GREET THANK YOU

Thank you to those who stayed and greeted our Ukrainian neighbors last Sunday after worship, when they came and chose Christmas ornaments from those which had been donated. If you weren't here, you missed some delicious food they brought to share! They were very pleasant and thanked us for sponsoring this activity!

DOWNTOWN LIGHTED PARADE THANK YOU

Thank you to Bethany members for supporting our entry in the Downtown Lighted Parade! Thanks to all who donated candy, you were very generous! Special thanks to Betty Zaiser for the visioning and to Dirk for the engineering to put together our manger scene. As we walked along, some small children excitedly called "there's baby Jesus!" which made all the work seem worthwhile. Walkers braved the cold and did a great job passing candy. Bethany had good representation!

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.

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!

ANGEL TREE

Thank you for everyone's generosity! All Angel tags have been chosen and gifts under the tree! If you were not able to get a tag, but would like to contribute to a child. You may purchase a gift for a boy or girl and place in a sack, unwrapped, under the tree. These gifts will be given to The Salvation Army's "Toy Shoppe". All gifts must be under the tree before December 11.

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!

PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB!

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

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**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