

# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 15, 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.

# Third 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

Stoller/Fritz Family

F: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
strengthen our hearts  
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may serve our neighbors in need.  
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

*"Unexpected and Mysterious"*

ELW Hymn 258

GREETING

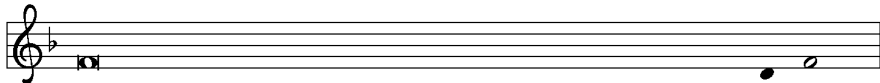
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



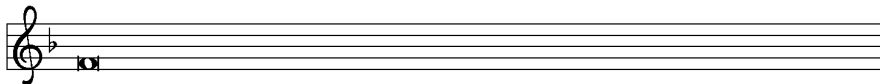
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



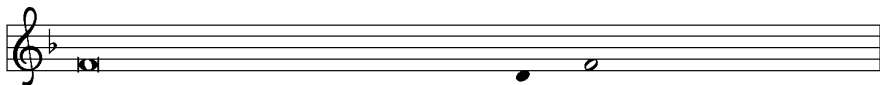
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



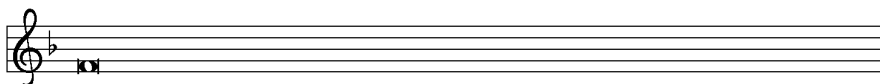
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



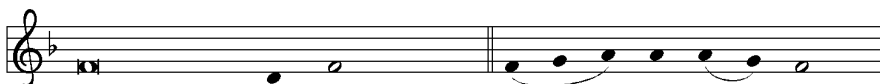
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



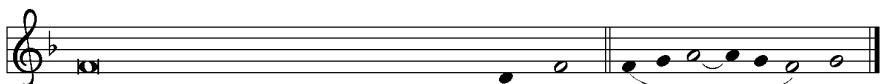
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Isaiah 12:1-6**

L: You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.

C: **Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my  
salvation.**

L: With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

C: **And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this  
name is exalted.**

L: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.

C: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**SECOND READING**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

*“The King Shall Come”*

ELW Hymn 260



# Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

## Presentation of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *this person*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new *member* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Dan Harken: Michelle Huppenbauer has come to our congregation from First Congregational Church in Burlington.*

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?*

**Michelle: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *this new member* in *her* life in Christ?

**Congregation: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**Welcome**

**Dan Harken:** Let us welcome *our sister* in Christ to this community of faith.

**Congregation: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks for *our new member Michelle*, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Amen.

*(Please Stand)*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

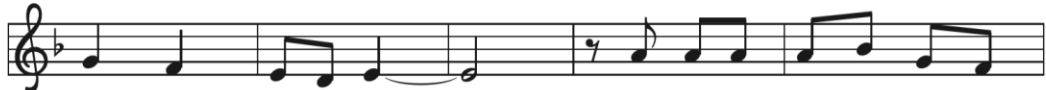
(Please be seated)

# 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



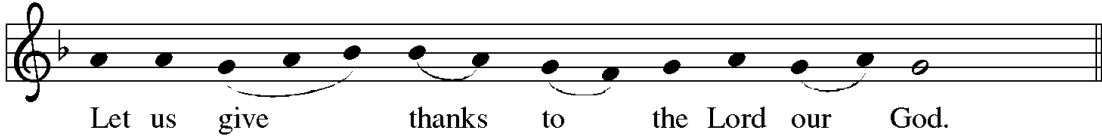
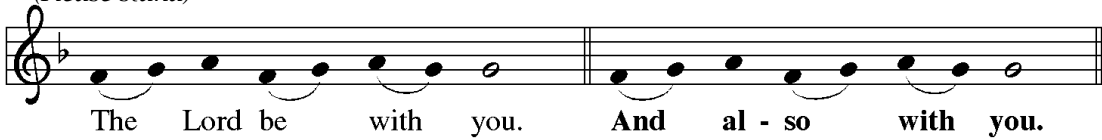
hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



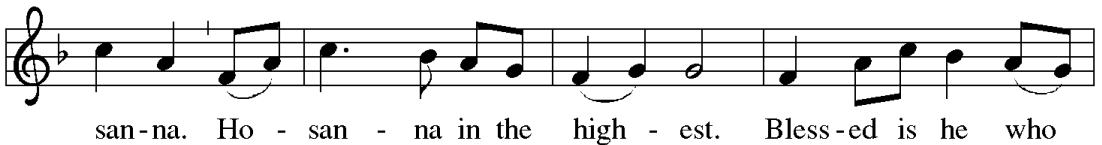
be near; hear our prayer, O God.

# 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves are connected by a slur. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## 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

*“Let Us Break Bread Together”  
“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

**ELW Hymn 471**

**ELW Hymn 502**

*(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

*“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”*

**ELW Hymn 543**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress SundaysandSeasononline.com license #25124  
Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons* copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Ron Kastner
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Scott & Jan Creighton
Greeters:	Dan & Julie Wischmeier
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Michelle & Tiffany Huppenbauer-In Honor of our Anniversary
Remember in prayer:	Marian Chaddock; Jim & Bev Felland; Genieve Hingst

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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:	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
	<b>8:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
	9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m. Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Wednesday:	<b>6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Advent Meal</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m. "Bless This Night" Vesper Service</b>
Thursday:	9:30 a.m. Bible Study @ Messiah
	<b>6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas @ Unity</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.</b>
Next Sunday:	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	<b>8:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
	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 18 will be provided by Unity!

## 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.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS**

We still need one more person to assist with Communion on Christmas Eve! We are also needing a couple people to assist with the lighting of the candles. 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**

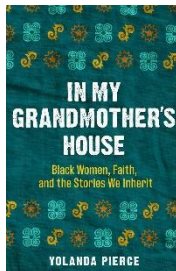
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00pm at Bethany. If you are needing a later service, Messiah will hold services at 7:00pm & 11:00pm as well!

## **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**

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!



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
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**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### 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