**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Second Sunday of Advent | Sunday, December 8, 2024

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**SPIRIT ART**

A meditative study of scripture through art.

Luke 3:1-6

***HELPFUL WORSHIP INFORMATION:*** *We use the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red book) as our hymnal, containing both liturgy and hymns. Liturgies are indicated by (ELW p.), found in front of the hymnal and the numbers are on the bottom of the page. Hymns are indicated by (ELW ###), they are found in the back two-thirds of the hymnal and the numbers are on the top of the page. Hymns in the All Creation Sings hymnal (purple book) are indicated by (ACS ###). Songs in the green binder are indicated by (GB ###).*

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Prelude** *The King Shall Come* arr. by Lloyd Larson

*Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending* arr. by Thomas Keesecker

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession, Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.** **We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned.** **We have turned away from our neighbors.** **We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.** **Bring your mercy to birth in us.** 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. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *My Lord, What a Morning* (ELW 438)**

**Greeting (ELW p. 184)**

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

**Kyrie (ACS p. 12)**

**Canticle of Praise (ACS p. 12)**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16** (A reading from Jeremiah.)

14 The 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. 15 In 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. 16 In 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.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**.

**Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10** (read responsively)

1 To you, O Lord, I lift **|** up my soul.  
2 **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**  
3 Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.  
4 **Show me your ways, O Lord,** **and teach me your paths.**   
5 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.  
6 **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,** **for they are from everlasting.**

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.  
8 **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;** **therefore you teach sinners in your way.**  
9 You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.  
10 **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** (A reading from 1 Thessalonians.)

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ACS p. 14)**

**Gospel: Luke 21:25-36** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *There Is a Longing in Our Hearts* (ACS 1078)**

**NICENE Creed (ACS p. 16)**

**Prayers of Intercession** Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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Description automatically generated**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Offering** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. by Stan Pethel (Bethel Brass)

**Offering Prayer**

**Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ACS p. 20)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface (ACS p. 20)**

**Holy, Holy, Holy (ACS p. 21)**

**Thanksgiving at the Table (ACS p. 21)**

…with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

…into the future. **We rejoice in you, O God.**

…with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

…proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**…**in your church, without end. **Amen.**

**Hymn *The Lord’s Prayer* (GB 134)**

**Communion (ACS p.25)**

**Hymn during Communion *Christ Be Our Light* (ELW 715)**

**Prayer after Communion**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song *People, Look East* (ELW 428)**

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers setting by Paul Manz

**About the Prayer of the Day**

All twelve prayers of the day for Advent begin with “stir up,” a traditional English translation of the original Latin excita. Today's prayer, based on #778 in the seventh-century Gelasian Sacramentary, prays for the justice so important to Luke.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month. **CHURCH ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, **(Mailing USPS use: PO Box 207)**

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! If you have any questions, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org**.**

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Description automatically generated**TEXT GIVING:** To give text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**ONLINE GIVING:** scan QR code

**HEARING ASSIST DEVICES AVAILABLE**—speak to an usher for assistance.

**LARGE PRINT HYMNS AVAILABLE**—contact the office if you are interested.

**For the week of December 1, 2024…**

* Sunday school: following worship
* Christmas decorating: following worship
* Fellowship hour: following worship

**Monday, December 2**

* Bible study: 1:30 pm

**Tuesday, December 3**

* WELCA meeting: 6:30 pm

**Wednesday, December 4**

* Advent mid-week service *(Light of the World)*: 6:30 pm

**Next Sunday, December 8**

* Worship: 9:00 am
* Sunday school & confirmation class: following worship
* Fellowship hour: following worship
* Lefse Making: Noon-4:00 pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **ADVENT 2024:** Mid-week Advent Services *(Light of the World)* will continue December 11, & 18, at 6:30 pm. Sunday school children will present their Christmas program during worship on Sunday, December 15. A Birthday Party for Jesus will follow worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service, w/ Holy Communion, starts at 4:00 pm.
* **POINSETTIA SIGN-UP:** It is time to order poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Thank you so much for your participation!
* **WELCA ADVENT MISSION PROJECT:** Bethel WELCA has partnered with the Lester Prairie School Outreach Program to sponsor three local families this year. During Advent, a Christmas Giving Tree will have wish lists (tags) hung on the tree to take and purchase the item listed. On December 15, following worship, we will celebrate with a “Birthday Party for Jesus.” Bring your unwrapped gift to the party; stay for gift wrapping, treats, crafts, and games! All are welcome!
* **CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** Please stay after worship to help finish decorating the church for Christmas!
* **LEFSE MAKING:** TODAY, for those interested in making lefse next Sunday, see Jeff and Julie Hanson following worship to get your five pounds of potatoes, grown in our community garden, to prepare in advance. Then join the fun of rolling (other jobs are available too) on Sunday, December 8, from noon to 4:00 pm, bringing home lefse to enjoy. Let Diane H. know if you plan to attend or have any questions.

**LEFSE RECIPE**

Potato Preparation

Cook 5 lb. of potatoes (Idaho Russets are best)

When cooked, mash and rice. While the potatoes are hot add:

* 10 T. of melted butter
* 4 T. half & half

Cool overnight in the refrigerator.

Day of Rolling

When ready to bake add:

* 2 tsp. of sugar
* 3 cups (scant) flour
* Salt to taste

Mix and roll. Makes approximately 32 balls.

