

***Advent Midweek Worship***  
***Wednesday, December 6, 2017***

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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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## ***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,  
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

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## ***WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS***

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

## ***NURSERY***

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

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## ***SERVING TODAY***

<b>Elder:</b>	Mike Bandman
<b>Communion Elder:</b>	Randy Gifford
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jeremy Leicht, Ashley Plapp
<b>Lay Readers:</b>	Karen Kozlik, Tony Young
<b>Ushers:</b>	Rich Arnold, open
<b>Greeters:</b>	The Adams Family

## THE LITURGY FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

This service carries the themes of Advent using words drawn from the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews—the Hebrew Christians who welcomed Jesus as Messiah.

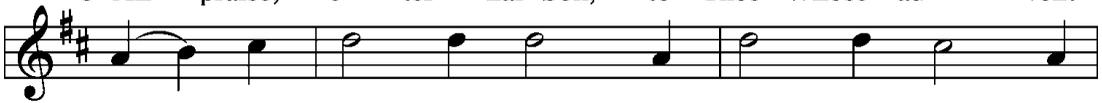
### Opening Hymn

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

### Invocation and Greeting

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Grace be with all of you.

Hebrews 13:25

C: **And also with you.**

P: In a very little while, the One who is coming will come and will not delay. Heb. 10:37

Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age  
to remove sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 9:26

C: **I will put my trust in Him.**

Hebrews 2:13

P: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

C: **I will put my trust in Him.**

P: I will proclaim Your Name to my brothers and sisters.

C: **In the midst of the congregation I will praise You. Amen.**

Hebrews 2:12

## ***Confession of Sin***

P: Brothers and sisters, we have come to Mount Zion *Hebrews 12:22-24*  
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,  
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,  
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,  
and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,  
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,  
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.  
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.  
For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses  
but we have One who in every respect has been tested as we are,  
yet without sin.  
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Heb. 4:14-16*

*Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.*

## ***Absolution (Forgiveness)***

P: The Holy Spirit says, *Hebrews 10:15-17*  
“This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,”  
and, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”  
Your sins are forgiven  
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

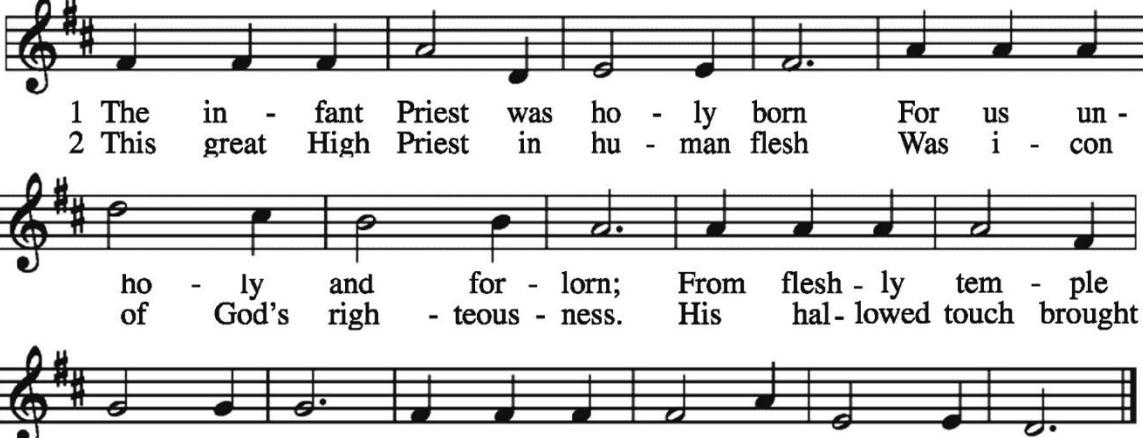
**C: Amen. Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age  
to remove sin by the sacrifice of Himself.  
I will put my trust in Him. Amen.**

*Hebrews 9:26*

*Hebrews 2:13*

**Hymn of Response      *The Infant Priest Was Holy Born***

LSB 624, sts. 1&2; tune: 571



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -  
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con  
ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple  
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought  
forth came He, A - noint ed from e - ter - ni - ty.  
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.

***Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)***

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ***Amen.***

***A Reading from an Advent Prophet***

***Isaiah 40:1–11 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

[I was instructed to say]:

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah,

"Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, And his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

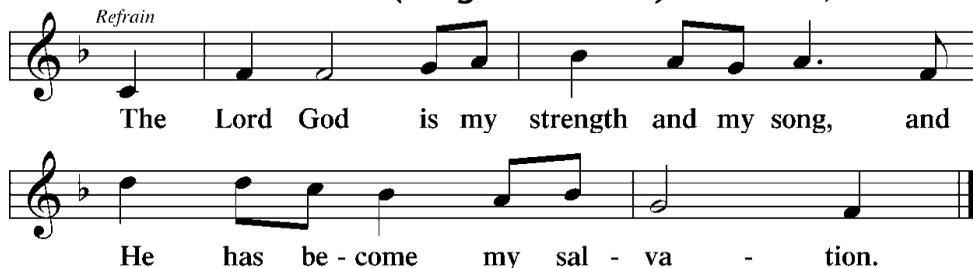
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Old Testament Canticle (sung three times)**

from LSB # 261

*Refrain*



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

**Epistle (New Testament Letter)**

**2 Peter 3:8–14 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Magnificat (based on the Song of Mary)** *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord* LSB 935, st. 2

2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;  
His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.

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## ***Gospel Declaration***

P: Long ago in many and various ways

God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C: *But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.***

P: He is the reflection of God's glory

and the exact imprint of God's very being,

**C: *and He sustains all things by His powerful word.***

P: When He had made purification for sins,

**C: *He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Amen.***

Hebrews 1:1-3

## ***Holy Gospel***

***Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

<sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: *Thanks be to God.***

**Hymn of the Day**

**When All the World Was Cursed**

LSB 346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,  
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,  
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,  
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.  
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.  
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.  
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,  
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,  
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,  
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:  
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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**Sermon**

***“Who is Waiting? The Nerds”***

***Mark 1:1–8***

**Offering**

**Offertory (based on the Song of Mary)** Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord LSB 935, st. 1  
 Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'I Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord! Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice; Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word; In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.'

**Prayers**

- P: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Hebrews 5:7  
 Brothers and sisters, let us pray to the God of peace. Hebrews 13:20  
 O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,  
 you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care;
- C: Come and show your people the way to salvation.**
- P: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, you showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the holy law on Mt. Sinai;
- C: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.**
- P: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice;
- C: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**
- P: O King of the nations, the only joy of every heart;  
 O Keystone of the mighty arch of humankind;
- C: Come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust.**
- P: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people.
- C: Come and set us free, Lord our God.**
- P: To Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the way, the truth, and the life,  
 let us make our humble prayer:
- C: Come and stay with us, Lord.**

P: Son of the Most High, Your Advent was announced to the Virgin Mary by Gabriel,

**C: Come and rule over your people forever.**

P: Holy One of God, in your presence John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb,

**C: Bring the joy of salvation to all the earth.**

P: Jesus the Savior, the angel revealed your name to Joseph,

**C: Come and save your people from their sins.**

P: Light of the world, for whom Simeon, Anna, and all the faithful waited,

**C: Come and comfort us.**

P: Watchful at all times, we pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***All: 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.***

### ***Benediction***

P: Now may the God of peace,

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you complete in everything good

so that you may do his will,

working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Hebrews 13:20-21

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn****Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

**Announcements****Acknowledgments**

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