



Sunday Advent Sermon Series

Advents (Plural)

Sanctificationis

The word “advent” is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival.” **The Third Sunday in Advent** continues the focus on John’s preaching, this time with the emphasis on the Messiah as the One who “will come after” him and will baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:6–8, 19–28).

3rd Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017

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

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

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.

SERVING TODAY

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Elder: JJ Jones
Comm/Asst. Elder: Al Diercks
Acolytes: Katie Kreamer, Ellie Kreamer
Ushers: OPEN, OPEN
Lay Readers: Diane Sanders
Greeters: Aaron Ratzburg Family,
The Anderson Family

Fellowship: Pipia / Swanson
Dec. Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
Dec. Counters: Monte Stoltzman

Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Bob Souza
Jack Warneke
Jake Herstowski, Griffin Pavletic
John Schultz, Lance Rasmussen
Bill Schwartz, Monte Stoltzman
The Kaiser Family,
Bob Schweigerdt

Sheila Bunnell
Bill & Kathy Schwartz

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Muriel and Sue Schmidtke in loving memory of Ted Schmidtke, a loving husband and father.

ADVENT PROPHETS, 2ND VERSION

A 2nd version of a service that draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Isaiah 2:3,5, 61:10

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

C: to the house of the God of Jacob,

P: to His Church, the ones gathered around Jesus Christ,

C: that he may teach us his ways

P: and that we may walk in his paths.

O house of Jacob, O people of Jesus,

come, let us walk in the light of the LORD,

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall be overjoyed because of my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Opening Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Confession of Sin

based on Isaiah 64:5-6,8-9

P: We confess to the Lord that we have been in our sins a long time;
Shall we be saved?
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

C: O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
And do not remember our sin forever.
Behold, please look, we are Your people.
Come, Lord Jesus, and save us. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness) & Thanksgiving

based on Zephaniah 3:14-15,17

P: Sing aloud, O children of God; shout, O Church of Christ!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O children of the Lord's Kingdom!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
Jesus Christ is the Mighty One who has opened the way of salvation.
Your sins are forgiven
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Response to the Lord's Forgiveness O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357, st. 5



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Refrain



Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem

“Let the Christ Child In”

Adult Choir

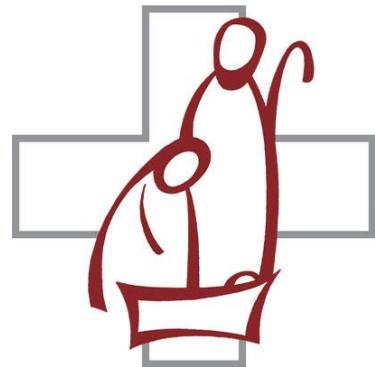
- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Do not be afraid, for God will send forth a Son.
A tiny Child will come to comfort and love ev’ryone.
A virgin will give birth, God’s Son will come to earth.
So, open up your heart: Let the Christ Child in.

Do not be afraid, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Turn from your sin; make room for the one who is adored.
The angels sing with joy to greet the baby boy.
So, open up your heart: Let the Christ Child in.

Those who are walking in darkness will see a wondrous light.
For unto us a Child will come, a Prince of Peace and Might.

Do not be afraid, for God will send forth a son.
A tiny Child will come to comfort and love ev’ryone.
A virgin will give; God’s Son will come to earth.
So, open up your heart: Let the Christ Child in.



A Reading from an Advent Prophet

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 (ESV)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 (ESV)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28 (ESV)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John [the Baptist], when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked [John], “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
 2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
 3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
 4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
 5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
 Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
 The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
 For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
 May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
 ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
 joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
 self in - flame To seek You more and more!
 lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Sermon**“Adventus sanctificationis”****Confession of Faith****Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

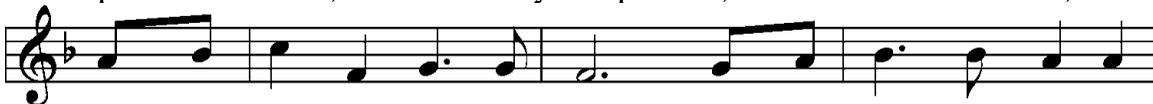
LSB 548 sts. 1, 3



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Prayers



The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

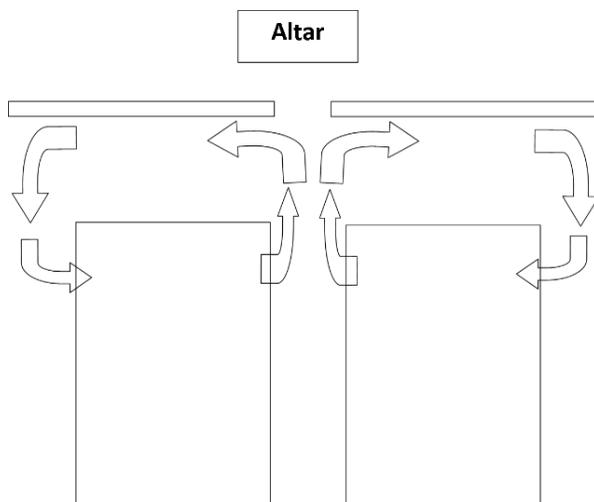
If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe,

we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Preface Verses *Once He Came in Blessing*

LSB 333 sts. 1, 4



1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins re -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -
dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,
Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



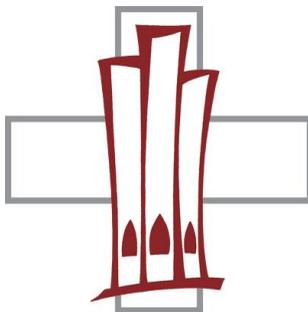
1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.



Second Distribution Hymn Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

C: Amen.

Benediction

based on Isaiah 61:1-3,8

P: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Jesus,
because the LORD has anointed Him to bring good news to you;
he has sent Jesus to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God against sin, death, and the devil;
to comfort all who mourn; giving them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
So that you may be called oaks of righteousness.
The Lord says to you: I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 2



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d' rest all things



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Worship:

- Wednesday, 11/29 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/6 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/13 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/20 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Worship:

- Sunday, 12/10 at 4:00pm in Gym
- Christmas Eve Worship-Sunday, December 24:

-ONE service at 10am
There will be a short devotion and video

- 6pm: Candlelight service in Gym
- 11pm: Candlelight service in Sanctuary

Christmas Day Worship

- 10am Festival in Gym
- Sunday 12/31:
Communion at 10am in Gym, followed by fellowship

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10