

Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.  
The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save.  
—Zephaniah 3:16b-17a—



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018**

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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 Diver – 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.

### ***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.

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### ***SERVING TODAY***

#### ***Sunday 8:00AM***

***Elders:*** JJ Jones  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** Al Diercks  
***Acolytes:*** Brooke Ratzburg, Holly Faitsch  
***Lay Readers:*** Lynn Faitsch, Tim Faitsch  
***Ushers:*** Don Heidlauf, **Open**  
***Greeters:*** The Stutzman Family,  
The Stewart Family  
***Fellowship:*** Jones & Squires  
***Dec. Altar Guild:*** Kathy Schwartz  
***Dec. Counters:*** Dave Ross

#### ***Sunday 10:45AM***

Bob Souza  
Jack Warneke  
Jake Chudy, Annika Chudy  
Bill Schwartz, Suzanne Fowler  
Lance Rasmussen, Scott Gutzke  
Mari Kube,  
Ellen Dalrymple  
Sheila Bunnell  
Cheryl Ross

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### ***TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:***

Muriel and Sue Schmidtke in memory of Ted Schmidtke, and  
the Freeling family in memory of Jann's Dad.

# In Today's Prayers

*If you have something you'd like added,  
please go to one of the Prayer Stands,  
write down your request, & put in the plastic rack.*



In our weekly Worship Prayers, we lift up praises, thanksgivings, requests, and concerns to our Lord. In order to help us pray to God about the wholeness of our lives in the world, we have a schedule for when we will focus on specific areas for prayer. Any immediate needs will always take priority, but in general, we will follow this schedule. Please note that this means on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, Pastor will speak the names of everyone on our health concerns list, but on other Sundays, this will be lifted up only as a general prayer for health and healing.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

### Government & Safety

Local, State and Federal government and leaders  
Local police and fire departments

### Local concerns

Marc & Pedro, men who burglarized Bethel, 30 months  
probation/rehabilitation

The people around us who do not know Jesus and salvation in His Gospel

### Congregation: Spiritual Conversation

Help us talk about spiritual things that are the source and foundation for life, and build relationships and friendships that include these conversations

#### **Acknowledgments**

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## **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**

### **O Sing of Christ**

LSB 362 (rhythm alt.)

(we introduced this hymn on Wednesday as part of our Advent Midweek series)



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

### ***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

### ***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***

### ***“Jesus, Name Above All Names”***

### ***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.

*Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord!  
Emmanuel, with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

*My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, My Savior art thou,  
If ever I love Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.*

*Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

**Reading from an Advent Prophet**

**Zephaniah 3:14–20 (ESV)**

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

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

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

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.  
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 in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
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: 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.

## Psalm Reading

## Psalm 85 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.    C: *Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Preparation

## God Has Spoken by His Prophets

LSB 583 sts. 1-2



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;

2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.

Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:

Spo - ken by the Word In - car - nate, God of God, be - fore time was;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.

Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, He re - veals our God to us.

## ***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***

***Luke 7:18–28 (ESV)***

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John [the Baptist] reported [to him in prison] all [that Jesus was doing]. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

<sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to [Jesus], they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And [Jesus] answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

<sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Hymn of the Day**      **Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord**

LSB 935



1 Tell out, my soul,            the great - ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul,            the great - ness of His name!  
3 Tell out, my soul,            the great - ness of His might!  
4 Tell out, my soul,            the glo - ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered    bless - ings, give my spir - it    voice;  
Make known His    might, the deeds His arm    has done;  
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry    by.  
Firm is His    prom - ise, and His mer - cy    sure.



Ten - der to me            the prom - ise of His Word;  
His mer - cy sure,            from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul,            the great - ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.  
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.  
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

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**Sermon**

**“Mighty One”**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**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**

**God Has Spoken by His Prophets**

LSB 583 st. 3

*Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar*



3 God is speak-ing by His Spir - it, Speak-ing to our hearts a - gain,



In the age-less Word de - clar - ing His own mes-sage, now as then.



Through the rise and fall of na-tions One sure faith yet stand-ing fast;



God a-bides, His Word un-chang-ing; God the first, and God the last.

**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.  
Brothers and sisters, let us pray to the God of peace.

Hebrews 5:7  
Hebrews 13:20

**The Lord's Supper: What We Believe**

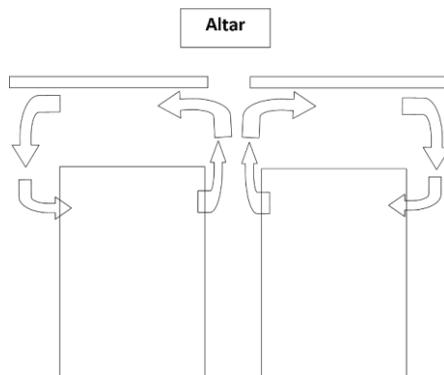
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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**

P: Brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

Grace be with all of you.

*Hebrews 10:19-23*

*Hebrews 13:25*

**C: And also with you.**

## **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.**



**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: Father, we have tasted the goodness of Your Word. We have tasted and see Your salvation that comes to us by Your Son, through His body and blood we have received at Your altar. The Good News has come to us, and we praise You from Your dwelling place. We praise You as we go this day. We ask that You will strengthen us in faith in this Good News. In the Name of Jesus, we pray

C: Amen.

Hebrews 6:5, 4:2

## **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**

### ***Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring***

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

## **Announcements**



**Pick Up a Bethel Christmas Invitation Today!**

**Send family and friends  
a personalized invitation to join you  
for our Christmas Worship.**

**Sharing the story of the birth of Jesus  
...that's the best gift out there!**