

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.



**DO THE GOOD THAT
IS YOURS TO DO**

GATHERING

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us start small.

Let us begin with what is right in front of us.

Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights inspire action

May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

May it be so and let us worship God! Amen.

CONFESSION AND 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 of one another.

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.**

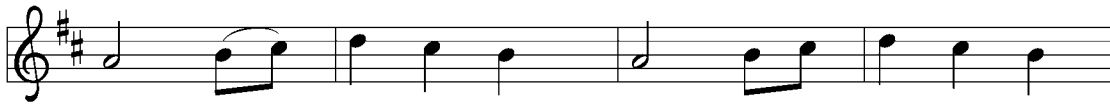
GATHERING SONG *The First Noel* (LBW 56)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

GREETING

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



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



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- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9-12

A reading from Isaiah.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6

² 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.

³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ 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.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-16

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷John 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (LBW 36)*



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, 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 your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, 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.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: *Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.*

PEACE

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

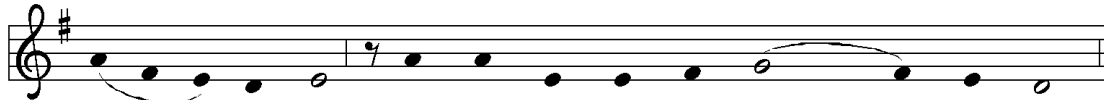
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud and mai - esty and awe



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Do The Good That's Yours To Do*

DO THE GOOD THAT'S YOURS TO DO

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM 13.13.13.14

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music from the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Ernest Macmillan, 1930

Peo - ple came from all a - round just to see the tea - cher Liv - ing in the wil - der-ness,
"Tell me, John, what should I do as a tax col - lec - tor?" "Take on - ly what's yours to take;
Some are called to of - fer care, some to ex - hor - ta - tion Some to hos - pi - tal - i - ty,

6
speak - ing to the see - kers He had no pre - ten - tious - ness; he would tell you
don't a - buse your debt - ors." Sol - diers, shep - herds, fish - er - men asked him the same
some to ed - u - ca - tion All our gifts col - lec - tive - ly work to bring sal -

11
blunt - ly So they sought out his ad - vice on how to live just - ly
ques - tion John re - spon - ded all the same, "Share all your po - ses - sions."
va - tion Do the good that's yours to do with de - ter - min - a - tion

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DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

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[Bethany Lutheran Church of New Lisbon](#)
[East Lemonweir Lutheran Church of Elroy](#)

Announcements

- You are welcome to stay for Coffee Fellowship. If you are able to serve or make treats, please let the office know or sign up on the white board in the narthex.
 - Please contact Karl Katuin, if you are able to help with snow removal.
 - Betty will be relabeling and moving boxes in the next few weeks.
 - Please check them and remove your mail. If you have a relative that is no longer able to attend church, please take their mail to them the next time you visit them. Thank you.
 - Silent Christmas Stocking Auction...place your bids. We are also looking for stuffers for the stockings. Let's have some fun with this fundraiser!
 - Today is – Christmas Trivia following worship
 - December 16th (TOMORROW) Please turn in your Beacon articles. If not able to, please let Betty know so she can save your spot.
 - December 18 Advent Worship at 6:30pm
 - Dinner and fellowship starting at 5:15pm
 - December 24th, 4:30 pm is Bethany's Christmas Eve worship.
 - December 25th, 10:30 is East Lemonweir's Christmas Day Worship.
 - December 31st – Annual Meeting Reports are due.
 - Wednesday 9 am - Bethany Quilting
 - Thursday 9 am – Bible Study at the parsonage. We are continuing with season 2 of "The Chosen."
 - Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany
 - January 15th – Bethany Annual Meeting
 - January 25th- Prime Rib Dinner at East Lemonweir. Tickets are \$30/each. Proceeds go to their Outreach Program. Tickets available from Dawn Nelson or Jennifer Sarnow. Dawn Nelson will be here TODAY!
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Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today

Prayers for those who recently loss family and/or friends, especially the family and friends of Dennis Stark and Edna Hansen.

Prayers for Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother) Jordan McGuire & Baby Oliver, Kalie Lingl Gietner, Sandy (Gayle Hempel's Daughter), John Preston, Kathy Haske, Wyatt, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Elwood Syverson, Mickie (Ron & Patty Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marily Wetley, and others we silently name.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Bethany/East Lemonweir Parish – www.bethanyeast.com | bethanyeast@mwt.net

Pastor, Rev. Lucy Hardie Parish Secretary, Betty Krotzman

Organist, Michaela Pedersen for Bethany.

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