

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book that is at the entry of the sanctuary. If you are a child visiting, activity bags are available. They are located on hooks near the entrance.



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 begin together. Let us begin arm in arm.

Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down.

Let us begin with words of peace.

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

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights mark a new beginning.

May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.

May we begin again. 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 *Blest Be the tie that Binds* (LBW 370)



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1774–1836, adapt.

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



Lord have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on__ us.



Shine your light in - to our dark - ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love.
Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to love as one.



Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind.__
Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.__



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

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.



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, **Lord God**, to prepare the way of your only Son. **By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

SECOND READING: Ruth 1

A reading from Ruth.

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth.

When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *To Be Known*

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew: We were not made for sol - i - tude
For in the gar - den God de - clared That our brief lives on earth be shared
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty
Both you and I are in - ter - twined The warp and weft of hu - man - kind

We need comm - u - ni - ties of faith Where we can feel God's warm em - brace
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly Who hold us in our joy and grief
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed To be di - vi - ded and con - fined
So please don't try to go a - lone Your hu - man heart needs to be known

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.**

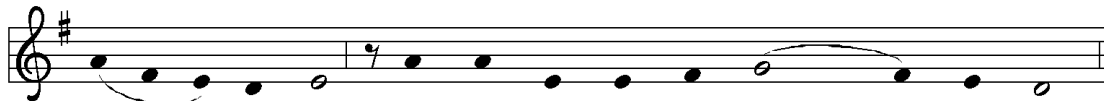
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



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 - es - ty 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 Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*



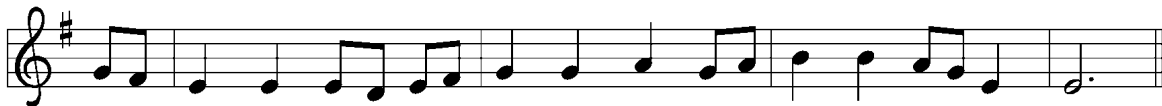
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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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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Communion and Candle Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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

Follow Us on Facebook!

[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.
 - Today – 3 pm FAMILY Sunday School. A special visitor will be here, too!
 - 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.
 - Today – WELCA Meeting after Worship.
 - We will be organizing those baskets at the meeting. 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!
 - December 11 & 18 Advent Worship at 6:30pm
 - Dinner and fellowship starting at 5:15pm
 - December 15th – Christmas Trivia following worship
 - December 24th, 4:30 pm is Bethany's Christmas Eve worship.
 - December 25th, 10:30 is East Lemonweir's Christmas Day Worship.
 - 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 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.
 - Annual Meeting Reports deadline will be approaching soon.
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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.

Prayers for 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, Yvone Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Elwood Syverson, Mickie (Ron&Patty Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marily Wetley, Jordan Wehman, 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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