



# Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 | 9:30am ✝

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# ✠ GATHERING ✠


PRELUDE • Selections for Piano

Tyler Pyle, Pianist

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sing refrain 3x

*Refrain – All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -  
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our  
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Lector

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

All

**You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.**

**You show up in our lives at unexpected times.**

Lector

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,  
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

All

**Amen.**

Sing refrain 3x

*Refrain – All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -  
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our  
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ✝ WORD ✝

## FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Lector* Word of God, Word of Life.

*All* **Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup> Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
goodness, O Lord.

**<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before  
our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see  
you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to  
you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and  
for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in  
holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Lector* Word of God, Word of Life.

*All* **Thanks be to God**

*Lector* We rise for the reading of the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION • He Came Down

v. 1

ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



he came down that we may have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Presider* The holy Gospel according to Mark.

*All*           **Glory to you, O Lord**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*Presider* The holy Gospel of our Lord.

*All*           **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON • Pastor Grant Vanderford

HYMN OF THE DAY • Wake, Awake, For Night is Falling

ELW 436

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Presider* Oh Emmanuel, God with us,  
*All* **come quickly.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## ✠ MEAL ✠

## OFFERING



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*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed by the ushers during the musical offering. You may also scan the QR code to the right to explore online giving options or contact the church office for more information.*

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## MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE • The King Shall Come v. 1 & 5 ELW 260

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

ELW Setting 8 | page 190

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

# INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*Presider* God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*Holy Communion is served in the front of the sanctuary. Please exit the pew using the exterior aisle and circle around to the center aisle to pass by the baptismal font. As we make the journey to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are reminded of the sacrament of Baptism. If you are unable to come to the front, please let one of the ushers know and we will make sure the sacrament is made available to you. No one is required to commune. Alternatively, you are welcome to accept the blessing of the meal in prayer.*

## LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 8 | page 191

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

ELW 490

Come Now, O God

ACS 902



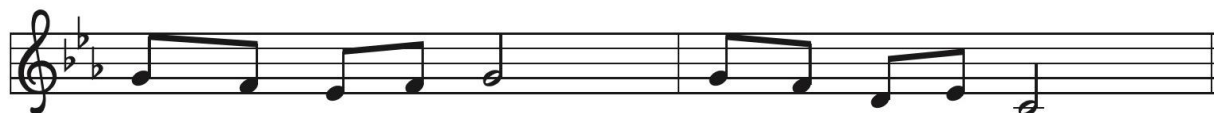
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.  
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**



# ✠ SENDING ✠

## SENDING HYMN

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

ACS 949



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

*Presider* Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE • Selections for Piano

Tyler Pyle, Pianist

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, AND PERMISSIONS

Liturgical texts and prayers from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *Sundays and Seasons*, © Augsburg Fortress. Material reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS000668, One License A-720047, and CCLI #2895205.

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SERVING TODAY

<b>PRESIDING MINISTER</b>	Pastor Grant Vanderford	<b>MUSICIAN</b>	Tyler Pyle
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Willy Jacobson	<b>LECTOR</b>	Dan Westphal
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Julie & Keith Phillips	<b>COUNCIL PERSON ON DUTY</b>	Sue Reinhart
<b>ADVENT WREATH</b>	Kelli, Skip, & Wynn Anderson	<b>CAMERA</b>	Kristin Ohren

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THIS WEEK AT  
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✝ December 1-7, 2024 ✝


TODAY:	9:30AM	WORSHIP
	10:30AM	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
MONDAY:	10:00AM	LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAY:	7:00PM	EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING
WEDNESDAY:	9:00AM	QUILTING
	1:30PM	NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION GROUP
	5:30PM	ADVENT SUPPER
	6:30PM	ADVENT VESPERS W/ HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER
	7:00PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
FRIDAY	ALL DAY	OFFICE CLOSED
	9:00PM	NA MEETING

# Advent

**DINNER @ 5:30 PM**  
**VESPERS @ 6:30 PM**

**WED DEC 4** | CHILI & COD CHOWDER + BREADS  
**WED DEC 11** | CHICKEN NOODLE & VEGETARIAN GNOCCHI + BREADS  
**WED DEC 18** | VEGETARIAN CHILI & CHICKEN WILD RICE + BREADS

**Blood Drive Soon**




**Bethesda Blood Drive**  
**December 11, 2024**  
**3-7 p.m.**

*We had so much success at our Lenten blood drive, we wanted to host another during Advent!*

Sign up now for an appointment with the QR code or contact Mary Wenaas to schedule at 701-320-2007 or msandness007@hotmail.com

SCAN TO SIGN UP



**CHOIR CANTATA**  
**DURING WORSHIP**

"NIGHT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE" BY PEPPER CHOPLIN  
 TELLS THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH NARRATIVE & MUSIC

SUNDAY  
 DECEMBER 15  
 9:30 AM