



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jesus' Birth Announced

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22ND, 2024

8:30 & 10:45 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “*Veni, Emmanuel*” arr. Charles Gray

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ ADVENT CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

As we wait and watch, let us prepare our hearts for Messiah by confessing our sin
in the presence of God and one another.

A brief silence is held.

Emmanuel, God who was, is, and will come to us,

We confess that we have failed, in many ways, to prepare the way of the Lord.

You come to bring us your hope,

But we trust in our own might, wealth, and privilege.

You come to bring us your love,

But we restrict and condition how far our love will reach.

You come to bring us your joy,

**But we grumble and criticize how everything is wrong,
without offering optimism for the future.**

You come to bring us your peace,
**But we point fingers, throw fists, and fire bullets and missiles to right wrongs
and bring our own idea of justice.**

**In your compassion forgive our sin,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Prepare us for your coming
and be born anew in our hearts,
that we may better live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Emmanuel is constantly being reborn in our hearts and in this world,
bringing God's forgiveness of sin again and again.
By that grace you have been saved.
In the name of ✝ the coming Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may be born in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

+ KYRIE

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

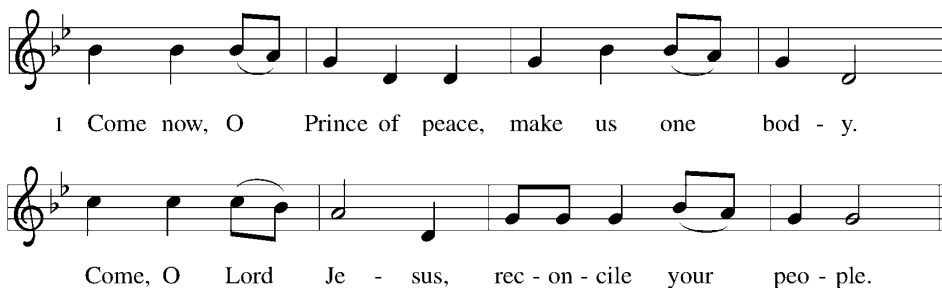


+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

ADVENT CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW #247 st. 1



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God. By your grace, Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord. Look with favor on us that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and welcome her Son as our Savior, whose peace encompasses all, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM PSALM 113 (read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

²Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.

your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[The assembly sings the Magnificat, Holden Evening Prayer's version of Luke 46-56]

The angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High."

And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might-y down from their thrones, and up -
spir - it re - joic - es in you, You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum ble of heart, You have filled the hun - gry with
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.
Great and might-y are you, O Ho - ly One, strong is your kind-ness
Great and might-y are you, O Faith-ful One, strong is your jus - tice
ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the weak and low-ly one,
strong your love, As you prom-ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,
hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

⁵⁶And Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months and then returned to her home.

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

+ HYMN OF THE DAY “Unexpected and Mysterious” ELW #258

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

We pass the peace of Christ beyond our congregation and this moment through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Use this QR code for a one-time gift or to schedule an automatic donation through Simply Giving. Online giving cards (in the back of hymnal), checks or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



ANTHEM (8:30) “*Joyful is the Dark*” Brian Wren & Bob Moore
(10:45) “*Christmas Medley*” arr. Matthew Naughtin

+ OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so 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.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

God who calls us to bear Christ to one another, strengthen us in this meal to support each other and to celebrate where your love is growing and moving today. We rejoice in your presence here among us, especially in and through this meal.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Pour out your Spirit on your church. Fill us anew with your dynamic peace. **Amen.**

+ THE 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.

+ PADRE NUESTRO

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
 santificado sea tu nombre.
 Venga tu reino.
 Hágase tu voluntad
 en la tierra como en el cielo.
 Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
 Perdona nuestras ofensas
 como también nosotros
 perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
 No nos dejes caer en tentación
 y líbranos del mal.
 Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es
 el poder y tuya es la gloria,
 ahora y siempre. Amén.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, havemer-cy on us, have mer - cy.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION ANTHEM (8:30) *“Christmas Medley”* arr. Matthew Naughtin

HYMN (10:45) *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”* ELW #265

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal,
send us out to proclaim liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

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 HYMN "Come, Join in Mary's Prophet-Song" VT #246

Come, join in Mar - y's proph - et - song of jus - tice for the
The_ "Peace on earth" which shep - herds heard is_ not some fan - ta -
Em - ma - nu - el, God - with - us here, grows peace where we_ would

earth, for_ right out - grows the fierc - est wrong, re -
sy. The_ an - gels sang to greet the Word, whose
dare to_ act de - spite our trem - bling fear and_

veal - ing hu - man worth; bound not with - in_ the
birth is vic - to - ry. The_ maid - en Ma - ry,
bring God's ho - ly care. The_ im - age God_ made

wealth we crave or_ in the_ arms we bear, but_
not so mild, bore_ in - to_ death's do - main true_
"us" to be is_ al - so_ born on "them." Christ

in the ho - ly_ sign God gave: the_ im - age that_ we share.
God, and yet_ an_ in - fant child, who_ o - ver death would reign.
bids us join_ our_ en - e - my to_ sing war's req - ui - em.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "He is Born/The Birthday of a King" arr. John Wilson

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Assisting Ministers: Anton Armstrong & Krista Middlebrooks
Ushers: (8:30)
(10:45)
Sacramental Ministers: (8:30)
(10:45)
Altar Care Setup: Altar Care Cleanup:

Instrumental Ensemble: Charles Gray, Deonne Gray, Cameron Gray, Kylie Gray
 Choir Director: Peter Schleif Soloist: Jessi Labenski
 Keyboards: Megan Engel
 A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Hoekstra, Brent Kivell

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art: “Mary & Elizabeth” by Lauren Wright Pittman / A Sanctified Art LLC

Our Confession & Forgiveness was crafted by Pastor Ben Schori.

Our prayer of the day is a gargantuan cobbling of the Magnificat, Ave Maria, ELW Advent III, and the visit of Mary & Lizzie by Gregory Walter.

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, O God” Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Come, Join in Mary’s Prophet-Song” Text: Adam L. Tice, 2005, © 2009 GIA Publications, inc.
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams.

We are using Dan Kallman’s *Light of Christ* liturgy.
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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

December 15th	in person attendance
8:30	235
10:45	155
Total	390

2024 Financial Status
(YTD as of end of Nov)


Revenue	\$ 846,508
Expenses	\$ 869,128
Net Deficit	\$ 22,620


Offering—General Operating Budget	2024 Budget monthly goal: \$80,771
Plate Offering Dec 1st & Dec 8th	\$19,252
December 7th onling giving	\$13,408
December 14th online giving	\$3,410
Plate Offering Dec 15th & Dec 22nd	
December 21st online giving	
Plate Offering Dec 24th & 25th	
December 28th online giving	
Plate Offering Dec 29th	
Current Total	\$36,070

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

12:00 pm  Bible Study @ the Vault (1520 Clinton Lane) with Pastor Inger

6:30 pm  Resonance Adult Bell Choir

TUESDAY



9:45 am Staff Meeting (Fireside Room)

3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship *nursery open*

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship (*livestream) *nursery open*

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY



10:00 am Christmas Day Worship (*livestream)

THURSDAY

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY

9:30 am WoW (Women of the Word) *via zoom*

1:00 pm Visitation for Doug Norvold

2:00 pm Celebration of Life Service for Doug Norvold
reception at the Northfield Ballroom to follow

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 am Cookie Exchange & Coffee Fellowship

10:00 am Worship (*livestream) *nursery open*

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Luke 2:21-38** (Psalm 131).



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