



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14TH, 2025

8:15 & 10:30 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “*People, Look East*” arr. Michael Bedford

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ INVOCATION

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

+ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light the candles
one at a time, burning
like old prophecies
that refuse to go quietly
into long nights still stretching.

Hope has something to say.

We light the candles
and bask in the glow
of something from nothing,
in the sparks of our becoming,
the Shalom of small things.

Peace begins in our bodies.

We light the candles
with flames that dance,
pulling us together
and toward radiance and
the source of all delight.

Joy is multiplied in community.

+ 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

concluding with...

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come.

May we rejoice at your coming and may your glory shine in our hearts and throughout the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

ANTHEM “*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*” arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

+ PROCESSIONAL HYMN “*People, Look East*” ELW #248

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM “*How Can This Be?*”

Scene 1: Gabriel, God, & Mary

HYMN “*Unexpected and Mysterious*” ELW #258 stanza 1

- 1 Unexpected and mysterious
is the gentle word of grace.
Everloving and sustaining
is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage
and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us
as a mother tends her own.

Scene 2: Narrator, Moses, God, Mary, & Gabriel

HYMN “*Crashing Waters at Creation*” ELW #455 stanza 1

- 1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit’s breath,
first to witness day’s beginning
from the brightness of night’s death.

Scene 3: God, Narrator, Miriam, Moses, Israelites

HYMN “*Crashing Waters at Creation*” ELW #455 stanza 2

- 2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage—
channel to a life made new.

Scene 4: Gabriel, Mary, Narrator, Samuel, Jesse, & David

Scene 5: Narrator, Goliath, & David

“Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!” Sung by the cast

Scene 6: Gabriel, Mary, & God

HYMN *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”* ELW #282 stanza 4

- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Scene 7: Mary, Gabriel, Narrator, & Wise Men

HYMN *“Away in a Manger”* ELW #277 stanza 1 children
stanzas 2-3 all

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Scene 8 : Narrator, Mary, Gabriel, & God

ANTHEM *“It’ll Soon Be Christmas”* Ruth Kenward Grades K-5

OFFERING



Guests

We give thanks for the good news of Jesus shared by our children, and for all God has done and is doing for and through this congregation. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ELW #283 stanzas 1-3

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

+ 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.

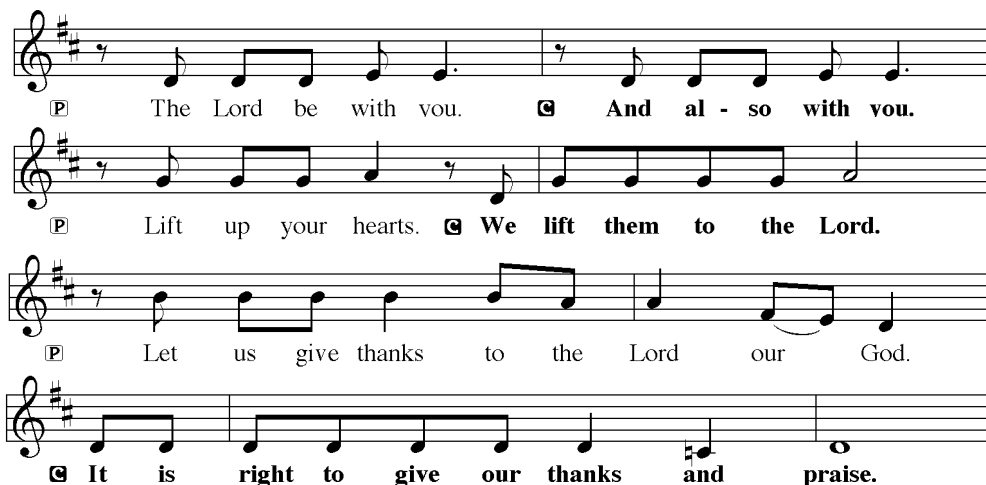
+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

Humble Lord, you surrendered the riches of heaven's palace
for the poverty of Bethlehem's manger.

As we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving for your gift,
make us imitators of you in generosity and love,
for the sake of the world you love so much, and for your Father's glory. Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

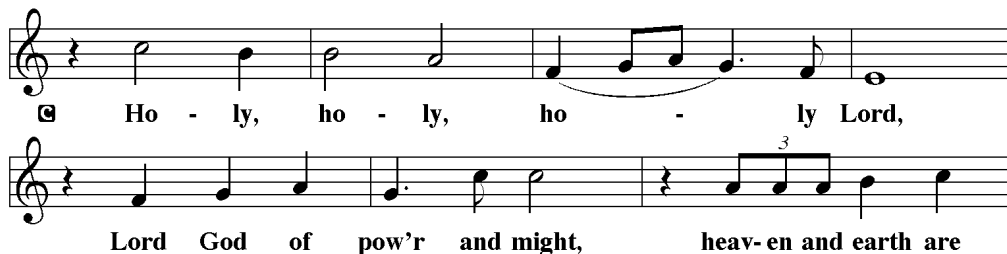
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

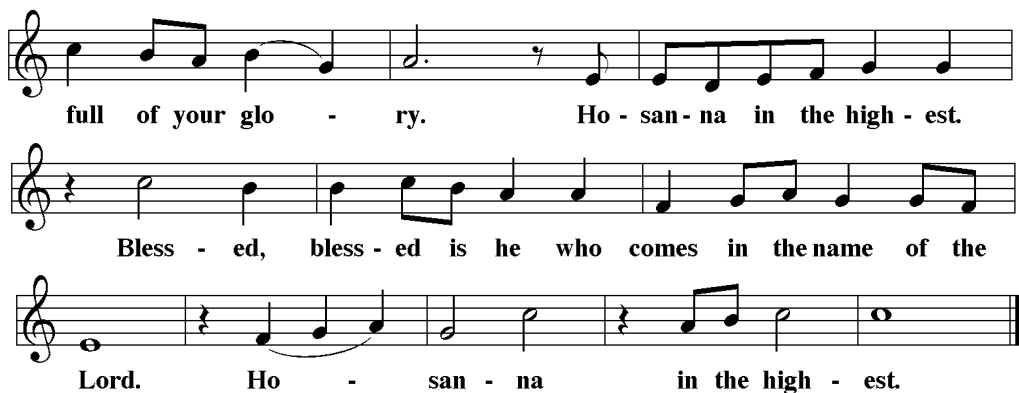
+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

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



Living God, through this meal strengthen us to be fearless in the face of flames. Vivify our bones. Help us hold fast to how your Word made flesh comes to our deliverance.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Pour out your Spirit on your church that we might live and be your light shining today for all the people of this needy world. **Amen.**

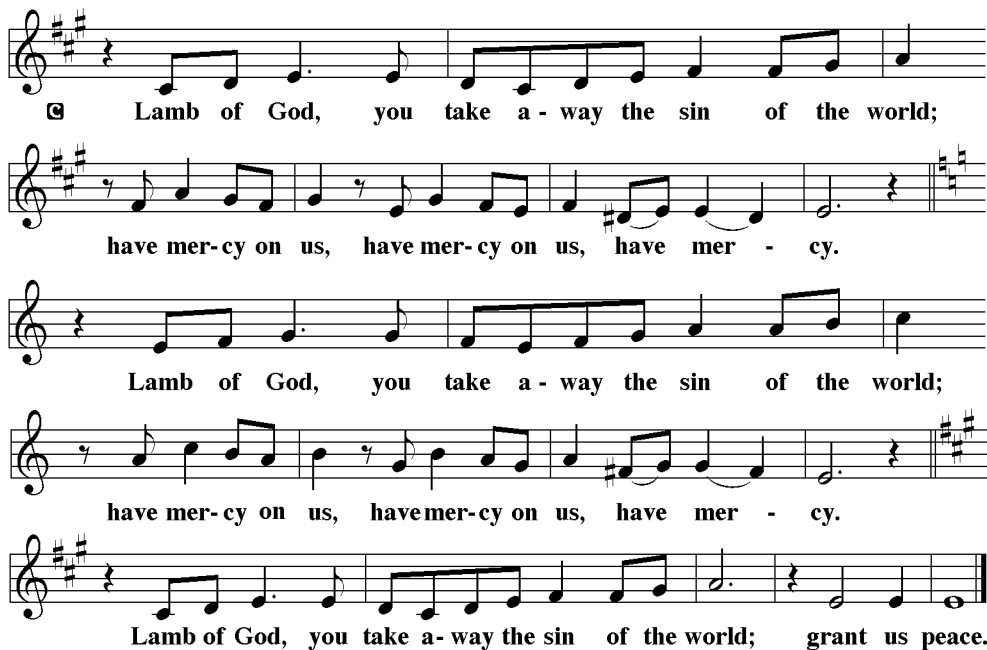
+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,
 santificado sea tu nombre;
 venga a nos tu reino;
 hágase tu voluntad,
 así en la tierra como en el cielo;
 el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
 y perdónanos nuestras deudas
 así como nosotros perdonamos
 a nuestros deudores;
 y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
 mas líbranos del mal.
 Porque tuyo es el reino,
 el poder y la gloria,
 por los siglos de los siglos. 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, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION ANTHEM “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Mark Hayes

+ TABLE BLESSING

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

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the one who is, who was and who is to come.

At this table you fill us with good things. May these gifts strengthen us to share with the hungry and all those in need, as we wait and watch for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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** *“Joy to the World”* ELW #267

+ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *“Joy to the World (with ‘Little Prelude in C Major’ by J.S. Bach)”* arr. Matt Limbaugh

Join the cast and crew of our Children’s Christmas program in the CLC for a reception between services. There will be cake to celebrate our Savior’s birthday! Merry Christmas!

CAST LIST (8:15)

Gabriel - Suzy Haefner

Mary - Josie Lancaster

God - Berit Dee

Narrator - Zoey Reddy

Moses - Conner Dahl

Samuel - Ingrid Jorgenson

David - Jaxson Reddy

Jesse - Addison Blumhoefer

Goliath - Henry Schoenbauer

Miriam - Grace Thompson

Israelite 1 - Clara Thompson

Israelite 2 - Edith Eastman

Israelite 3 - Estella Engle

Wise Kings: Anika Sauber, Caroline Blumhoefer, Zachary Sauber

Israelites/Crowd: Caroline Blumhoefer, Josie Hoskins, Zachary Sauber, Anika Sauber, Owen Thompson

CAST LIST (10:30)

Gabriel - Greta Porath

Mary - Norah Powell

God - Calvin Lambeau

Narrator - Anna Porath

Moses - Deilianna Shoup

Samuel - Parker Danielson

David - Miles Lambeau

Jesse - Sawyer Danielson

Goliath - Jackson Ellerbusch

Miriam - Maggie Yackel

Israelite 1 - Kinsley Ellerbusch

Israelite 2 - Isla Schori

Israelite 3 - Vivian Danielson

Wise Kings: Johanna Schori, Jackson Kruchten, Quinn Hemmingsen

Israelites/Crowd: Quinn Hemmingsen, Alex Kruchten, Jackson Kruchten, Britta Matson, Michael Pollington, Johanna Schori, Ciercina Shoup

Sheep (3s, PreK): Griffin Hemmingsen, Nora Hill, Elise Matson

Red Sea - Cora & Lucy Santerre

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Assisting Ministers: (8:15) Eric Lundin (10:30) Rolf Kragseth

Ushers: (8:15) Brian Boesche, Craig Grunzke, Cal Feine, Harley Foster

(10:30) Nancy Sparby, Michael Sparby

Sacramental Ministers: (8:15) Clark Cary, Judy Code, Carol Cole, Maryann Kaul, Norvold Telford

(10:30) Peder Jothen

Altar Care: (set) Linda Zolnosky, (clean) Ruth Hoekstra, Linda Zolnosky, Lois Cary (cups) Mary Loven

Director of Grace Notes: Jill Mahr

Vocal Solo: Rebecca Nystuen

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Broughton, Nathan Hoekstra

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our prayer for lighting of the Advent Wreath was written by Meta Herrick Carlson for *“The Way of the Manger: An Advent Liturgy”*. © 2023 Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson.

The Children’s Christmas program, *“How Can This Be?”* was written by Brenda Raabe, 2025

Our Eucharistic prayer is by Pastor Inger Hanson.

We are using Dan Kallman’s *Light of Christ* liturgy

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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 7	in person attendance
8:15 am	208
10:30 am	146
Total	354

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be
John 1:1-18 with Psalm 130:5-8



THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—THURSDAY 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

- 9:00 am  **Quilting Group**
9:45 am **Staff Meeting** (Fireside Room)
12:00 pm **Lydia Circle**
2:00 pm **Grief Support Group**
6:30 pm  **Church Council** (Fireside Room)
ISAIAH (Room 55)

WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 pm **Limitless**
5:30 pm  **Bistro - Orange Chicken w/ Rice / Asian Salad**
6:15 pm **Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir**
6:30 pm **Advent Evening Prayer**
7:00 pm  **Confirmation for 7th—9th grade**
 **Hangtime**
Church Choir
8:05 pm  **Brio Youth Bell Choir**

THURSDAY

- 8:30 am **MoB (Men of Bethel)** (Room 62)
9:30 am **FaB (Faith & Books)** (Youth Room)
10:00 am **Fellowship at Parkview East Sunroom**

FRIDAY

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



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