

WATCH

The First Sunday in Advent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

November 29, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church

ADVENT GATHERING RITE

M In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C (spoken) Amen.

M Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

C that the King of glory may come in.

M Who is this King of glory?

C The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

(Psalm 24:7,8)

Introduction to the hymn

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain.
Swell the tri - umph of his train.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.

M "Surely the day is coming;

C **it will burn like a furnace.**

M All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble,

C **and that day that is coming will set them on fire . . .**

M But for you who revere my name,

C **the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays . . .**

M Then you will trample down the wicked;

C **they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the LORD Almighty.**

(selections from Malachi 4:1-3)



Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
Those who ri - di - culed and sold him,
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly
wail - ing, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.

M Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

C The one who has clean hands and a pure heart. (Psalm 24:3,4a)

M But it is written: "All have turned away, they have together become worthless;

C There is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3:12)

M Therefore, let us confess our sins.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion

Still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
To his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.

With what won - der, With what won - der, With what
won - der, Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.

M If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

M Therefore, in the name of Christ Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

Yea, A - men, let all a - dore you;
Ev - 'ry knee shall bow be - fore you;

High on your e - ter - nal throne.
Come and take your peo - ple home!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! You shall reign and you a - lone!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

This is what happened when mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth. When daughters were born to people, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives for themselves any of them they chose. ³The LORD said, "My Spirit will not struggle with man forever, because he is only flesh. His days will be 120 years." ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days. After that, the sons of God went to the daughters of men, who bore children for them. Those became the powerful, famous men of ancient times.

⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day. ⁶The LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with sorrow. ⁷The LORD said, "I will wipe out mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, along with the animals, the creeping things, and the birds of the sky, because I regret that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹This is the account about the development of Noah's family.

Noah was a righteous man, a man of integrity in that generation. Noah walked with God.

¹⁰Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹In the sight of God the earth was morally corrupt, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²God looked at the earth and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh was corrupt in all their ways on the earth.

¹³So God said to Noah, "I have decreed the end of all flesh, because the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴"Make an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark. Seal it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: The length of the ark is to be 450 feet, its width 75 feet, and its height 45 feet. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and leave an eighteen-inch opening just under the roof. Place a door on the side of the ark. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

¹⁷"I myself am about to bring a flood of waters on the earth, in order to destroy all flesh under the sky that has the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will die, ¹⁸but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You shall bring a pair (male and female) of every kind of living flesh into the ark with you to keep them alive. ²⁰Include the birds according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, every creeping thing on the ground according to their kinds. Two of every sort shall come to you, so you can keep them alive. ²¹Take with you every type of food that is eaten, and store it for yourself, so it can be used as food for you and for them."

²²So that is what Noah did. He did everything that God commanded him, just as he had been told. (EHV)

 The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit,¹⁹ in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison.²⁰ These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. (EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Mark chapter 13.

³²"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will

come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!" (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come | 2

1 Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4 From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!

5 Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

SERMON

please stand, if able

NICENE 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

be seated

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M] Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share

happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we join in praying.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.**

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.



Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[M] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Christ, Lamb of God'. It consists of five staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The second staff continues with 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.'

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

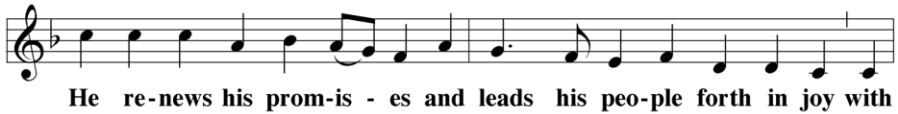
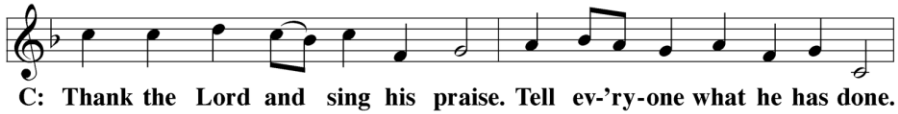
When Sinners See Their Lost Condition | 32

- 1 When sinners see their lost condition And feel the pressing load of sin
And Jesus comes on his blest mission To heal the sin-sick heart within,
All grief must flee before his grace, And joy divine will take its place.
- 2 When Jesus enters meek and lowly To fill the home with sweetest peace,
When hearts have felt his blessing holy And found from sin complete release,
Then calm and joy within shall reign, And hearts divided love again.
- 3 When Jesus enters land and nation And changes people with his love,
When, yielding to his kind persuasion, Our hearts his truth and blessing prove,
Then shall our life on earth be blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.

4 When Jesus comes—O blessed story—He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory To young and old, to man and wife.
Through sacrament and living Word Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.

5 Oh, may he soon to ev'ry nation Find entrance where he is unknown,
With life and light and free salvation, That Satan's pow'r be overthrown,
And healing to all hearts may come In heathen land and Christian home!

THANK THE LORD



PRAYER

[M] Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



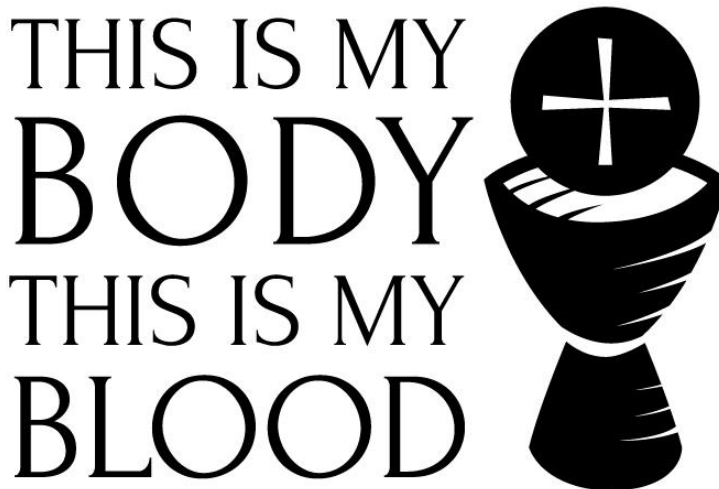
HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes | 9

- 1 Jesus, your Church with longing eyes For your expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise And glory beam from heaven's gates?
- 2 E'en now, when tempests round us fall And wintry clouds o'er cast the sky,
Your words with pleasure we recall And know that our redemption's nigh.
- 3 Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
Our rooted enmity subdue, And crown your gospel with success.
- 4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev'ry land; Let Satan from his throne be hurled.
Let nations bow to your command; Let grace revive a dying world.
- 5 Teach us in watchfulness and prayer To wait for your appointed hour,
And fit us by your grace to share The triumphs of your conqu'ring pow'r.

Communion Procedure

- Elders usher communicants into the center aisle, single file, 6ft. apart
- Communicants approach the Pastor who will be in the center aisle in front of the altar, one by one.
- Communicants receive and eat the bread, then receive and drink the wine from the Pastor who speaks the words "This is Christ's body given for you," "this is Christ's blood shed for you."
- After receiving the bread and wine together with the body and blood, communicants return to their seats, either to the right or left according to the side they came from. Empty cups are placed in the baskets as usual.
- After all have communed, the pastor speaks the words of dismissal and the Nunc Dimittis is sung.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion
Elders Meet

Wednesday: Online Advent Worship

Saturday: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study in Utica.

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship

A box of masks is provided on the bureau in the entry for anyone who is more comfortable wearing a mask during worship.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 55, Facebook 9 live. Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,870.30, Given 3,750.40, Trinity: 45.00, LMSG 45.00. **To God be the glory!**



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