



REJOICE

The Third Sunday in Advent

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church | York, NE

December 13, 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.

Worship Leader
Pianist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mr. Steven Springborn

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Common Service © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-713578.

Scripture quotations The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org. All rights reserved

Art: corissanelson.com

THE COMMON SERVICE

"The Common Service" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America. It is also in CW pg. 15.

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,

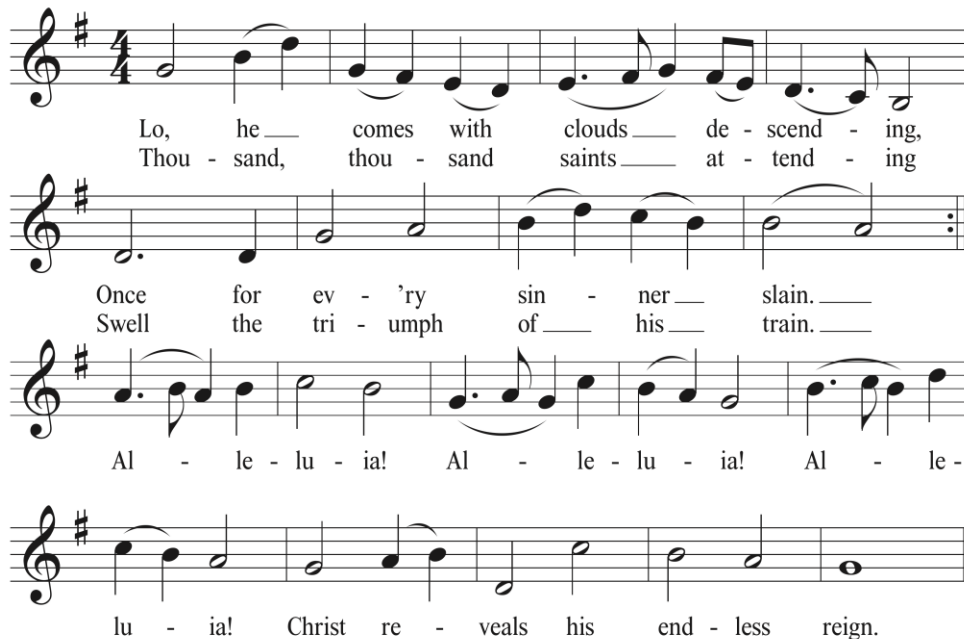
[C] that the King of glory may come in.

[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] The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

[M] Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.
My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.
With a robe of righteousness he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.
¹¹For as the earth produces its growth,
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
in the presence of all the nations. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks. For this is God's will
for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with

contempt. ²¹But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²²Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (EHV)

[M] The Word of the Lord

[C] Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

[M] Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Alleluia.



GOSPEL

John 1:6-8,19-28

please stand

[M] The Gospel according to John chapter 1.



⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²²Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (EHV)

[M] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | 7

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 You saints, who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.
- 4 Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.

SERMON

Isaiah 61:10-11

CREATE IN ME

please stand, if able

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

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] O God, Shepherd of Israel, through all the long years of promise you led your people, nourishing and sustaining them with the hope of deliverance. Grant us also patient faith in your precious promises

[C] **Enable us to rejoice in your salvation and give you thanks.**

[M] O Father, we your children bring our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving. According to our needs, send such deliverance as will renew us in body and spirit.

[C] **Forgive our sins and blot out all our iniquities.**

[M] Let your Holy Spirit descend upon us that our faith may not fail in that day when our Lord will come again to bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make known the thoughts of the heart.

[C] **Bless all who are gathered here this day in the fellowship of faith.**

[M] Be with those of our number who are sick or under any affliction of body, mind or spirit. Comfort them that they may, through their trials, learn of your gracious power and readiness to help in every time of need.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

[M] Finally, endow us all with your special graces, that we may daily show forth the light of your Name, and the divine excellencies of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we ask in his name as 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)

Children who come forward with their parents will receive a blessing

[M] The Lord be with you.



[M] Lift up your hearts.

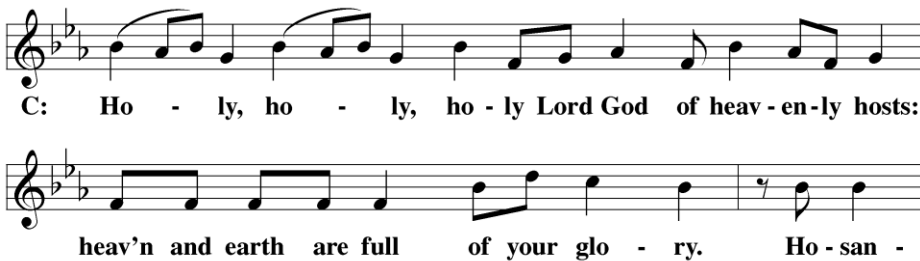


[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



[M] It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, 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.

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.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | 311

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Hasten as a bride to meet him, And with loving rev'rence greet him,
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, Saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, That I nevermore will leave you.

3 He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, Naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And his blood, for you once given.

4 Now I kneel before you lowly, Filled with joy most deep and holy,
As with trembling awe and wonder On your mighty work I ponder,
How by mystery surrounded, Depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden Secrets that with you are hidden.

5 Human reason, though it ponders, Cannot fathom these great wonders,
That Christ's body must be boundless Since the souls it feeds are countless,
And that he his blood is giving With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded Are by God alone expounded.

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor, Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker: Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven For our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you, Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited; Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me As your guest in heav'n receive me.

SONG OF SIMEON

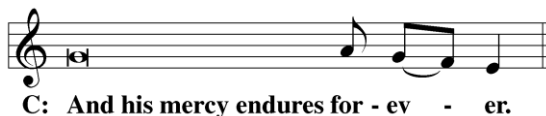
please stand, if able



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



[M] O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

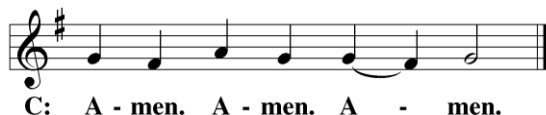


[M] We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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.



CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | 12

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the captives to release,
In Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst;
The iron fetters yield.

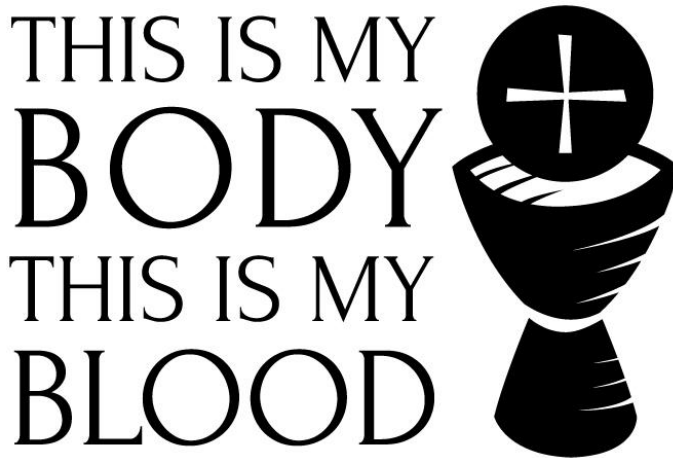
3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

Rejoice!

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 Worship with communion

Wednesday: Trinity School Advent/Christmas program ONLINE

Saturday: 10:30 AM Bible Information Class

Sunday: 10:30 Worship

Christmas Bags: Judy Remmers will be putting together Christmas bag again this year.

Everything in the bags will be individually wrapped. If you would like to contribute items or give an offering towards these bags, speak with Judy.

Holiday Worship Services: We will be having Christmas and New Year's worship as usual this year.

Christmas Eve: 5:30 PM at Bethel; 7:30 PM at Grace

Christmas Day: 8:45 AM at Grace; 10:30 AM at Bethel

New Year's Eve: 6:30 PM Joint Service at Bethel

Thanks to all who helped put out the Christmas Decorations!



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



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 57, Faithlife Slide Service 10, Facebook (no live stream). Offerings: For operating expenses: Needed 2,870.30, Given 2,625.05, NELHS 400.00, Trinity 45.00, MLC Match 250.00. Advent Online: about 20. **To God be the glory!**

800 N. East Ave., York, NE + bethelyork@gmail.com + 402-641-4685 (cell)