



BELIEVE

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, NE

December 20, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist 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.

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

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the Corona Virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mr. Quinton Corwin

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DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is 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 descend - ing,
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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. ¹⁰I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed

again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning ¹¹and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. ¹²When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 89

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;^{*}
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,^{*}
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,^{*}

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*

who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*

they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you—

according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, ²⁶but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—

²⁷to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

RESPONSE

(CW 28)

♪ **Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

GOSPEL¹

Luke 1:26-38

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Luke chapter 1.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

¹ *The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.*

HYMN OF THE DAY²

The Angel Gabriel | 24

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
- 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!
- 4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

SERMON

Luke 1:26-38

please stand, if able.

APOSTLE'S CREED³

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

² *The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.*

³ *Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.*

**was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

be seated

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

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O heavenly Father, we give you humble and joyful thanks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the salvation you have provided for all people in him. With contrite hearts we turn to you, O God. We acknowledge our transgressions and confess that we have failed to do the good which we ought to have done, and that we have done the evil which we ought not to have done. We have not always trusted your gracious promises with all our hearts.

C **Stir us to a renewed sense of our sin and depravity. Awaken us to our need for daily repentance. Come, forgive us, renew us and grant us the power to believe what you promise.**

M We pray for the wounded in spirit, for the sick, and for the distressed in heart, that you would shine on them with your healing power. For all strangers, all travelers, and all who are away from home in any service or calling, we ask you to accompany them with your light and joy.

C **For the aged, the dying, and those who mourn, be gracious and give them the perfect peace of your holy child, Jesus.**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

- M** Finally, grant that our hearts may be a fit dwelling place for your Son, and that we may know the joy of his presence, the blessing of following in his steps, and the glory of that crown which he has promised to all who are his through faith. In his name we pray.

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.**

HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | **23**

- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!
- 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!
- 3 Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!
- 4 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYER

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING⁴

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.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven | **404**

1 Faith is a living pow'r from heav'n
That grasps the promise God has giv'n,
A trust that cannot be o'erthrown,
Fixed heartily on Christ alone.

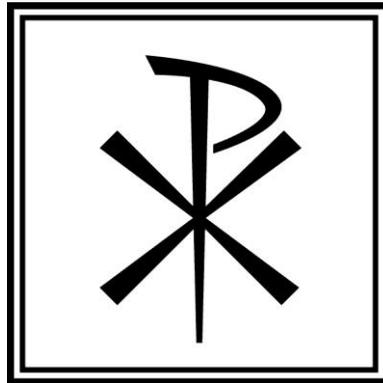
2 Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need
To save or strengthen us indeed,
Receiving grace from heaven's throne
And humbly sharing cross and crown.

3 Faith in the Savior brings us peace
And bids the mourner's weeping cease;
By faith the children's place we claim
And give all honor to one name.

⁴ *The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].*

4 We thank you, then, O God of heav'n,
That you to us this faith have giv'n
Through mighty Word and sacrament
To trust the one whom you have sent.

5 As you have promised, grant each soul
Its holy faith's true end and goal:
The blessedness no foes destroy,
Eternal love and light and joy.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 Worship

Thursday: 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship

Friday: 10:30 AM Christmas Day Worship

Sunday: 10:30 Worship with communion
Elders Meeting

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

You may watch the Trinity School Advent/Christmas program anytime on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/MzwsDk8QTOA>

The NELHS Board is asking if there might be a way for Bethel, Grace and NELHS to work together in supplying a part time Campus Pastor. Information meetings have been held at Bethel and Grace. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome. Some additional ideas have come from these information meetings which will be presented at the January voters meetings. What NELHS is asking at this point is for us to let them know if there is any interest in doing something like this. If not, they will be looking at calling for a different position. One positive to such an arrangement might be that Bethel and Grace could have their own Pastor and their own schedule on Sundays and their own pastor working in each community. A negative would be those pastors might not always be available because of their duties at NELHS. Also, if the partnership is only between Bethel and NELHS, Grace would have a lot of added expenses.



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



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 57. Facebook: Live 5, total about 23, Online Slide Service 7. Offerings: For operating expenses: Needed 2,870.30, Given 794.90. **To God be the glory!**



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