



PREPARE

The Second Sunday in Advent

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church | York, NE

December 6, 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

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

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Organist

Mrs. Kathy Bremer

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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,

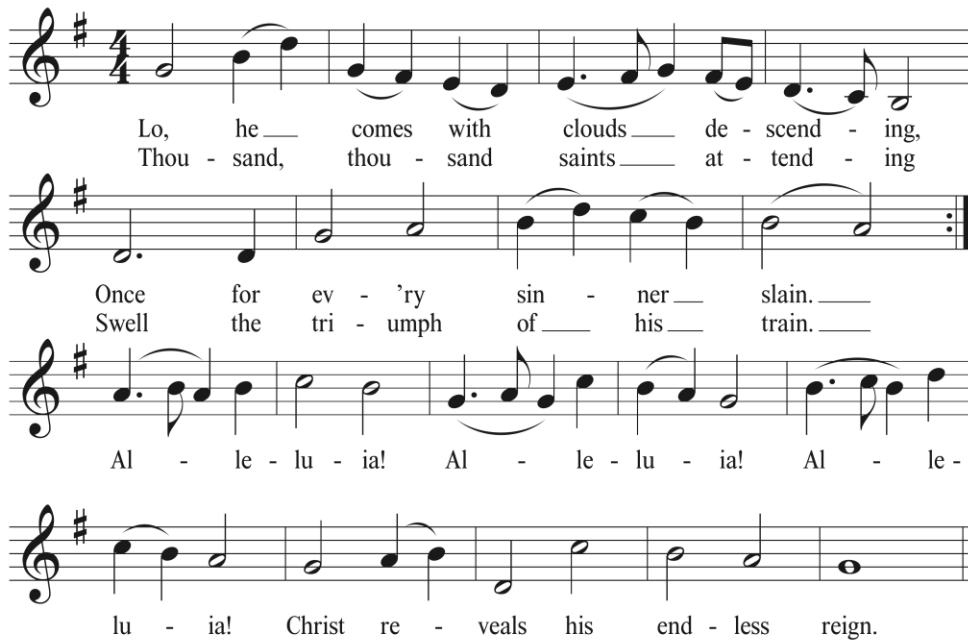
C that the King of glory may come in.

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, thousand saints attending.

Once for every sinner slain.
Swell the triumph of his train.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ reveals his endless 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 . . .**

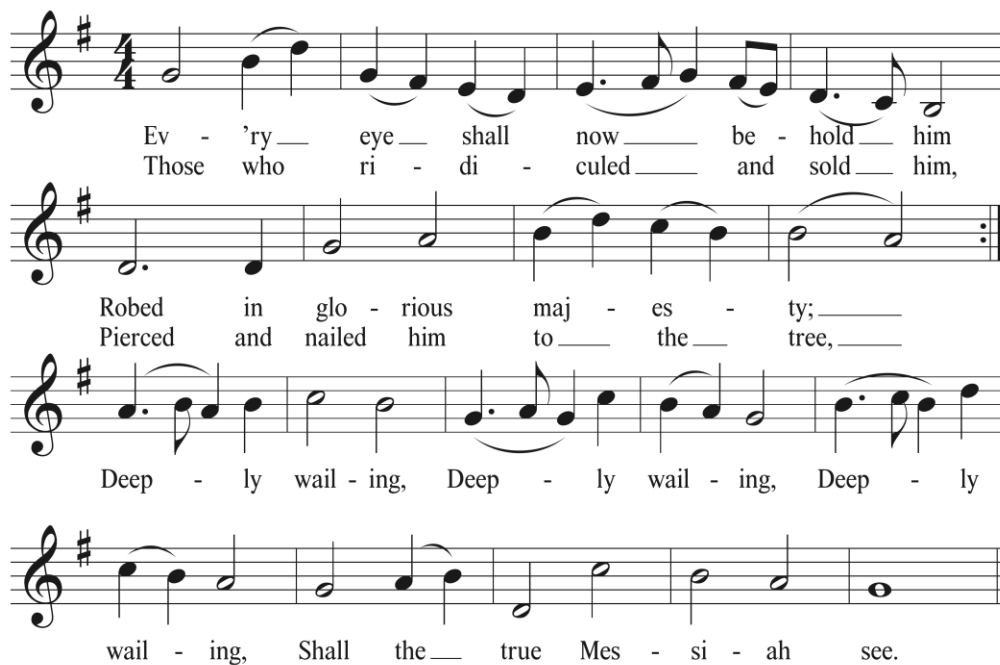
M But for you who revere my name,

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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹Get up on a high mountain,
O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength,
 and his arm is ruling for him.
 Look, his reward is with him.
 The result of his work is in front of him.
¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.
 With his arm he will gather the lambs.
 He will lift them up on his lap.
 He will gently lead the nursing mothers. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

14

Refrain

Psalm Tone

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
 They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men
 to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;
 there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**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

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹²as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

- M** Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

please stand, if able

- M** The Gospel according to Mark chapter 1.



The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.

³A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make his paths straight."

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁶John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (EHV)

- M** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

be seated

APOSTLES' CREED

**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,
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

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 16

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare

For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON

please stand, if able

OFFERTORY



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 *The offering will not be gathered – please place your offering in the plate located in the entry or make use of our options for online giving.*

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 Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

© **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

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | 13

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;

3 But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.

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.



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

Arise, O Christian People | 14

1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.

Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship.
Church Council Meeting
4 PM NELHS Concert and One Act Play Online

Monday: 7 PM Bethel Women's Guild

Wednesday: Online Advent Devotion

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Please remember social distancing if you stay and visit after church.

The NELHS Christmas concert and One Act Play is in-person for family only. It can be viewed online at NELHS.org.

Advent: Online Only – December 2, and December 9. December 16 will be the Online Trinity Advent/Christmas program.

You can log in at our Member Connect page and see a record of your offerings, check to see if your contact information is up to date, fill in a contact card, enter a prayer request, or give an online gift. You can get there from our website or you can scan this code



In our prayers:



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



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: In Person 46, Facebook live 6, engagements , Online slides 6, Offerings General Fund needed 2,870.30, Given 2,266.80, Trinity 45.00. **To God be the glory!**

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