

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM
December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church sits on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #425 *“Behold the Host Arrayed in White”*

This Norwegian hymn is about the glad fact that we are always standing on the shoulders of countless people who went before us, and that they still bless us every day.

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Hymn of Praise: ELW #271 “Jeg er sa Glad”

This is a beloved Norwegian Christmas Hymn. Hey, it’s fine to sing Christmas music in Advent! Try this one in Norwegian!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

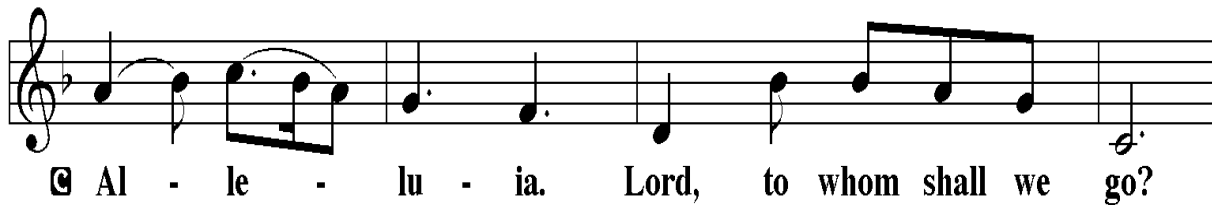
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; refrain, Ps. 85:13

ECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Will Mowchan

Hymn of the Day: ELW #781 *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*
Wherever there are Norwegians in the new world, there are almost certainly some Swedes too. In fact, Swedes and Norwegians (and others!) worked together in our churches for 130 years. We are all God’s children.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, our source of deepest hope, which though often dashed, remains resilient.

We believe that God’s holy presence gives us hope so that we can wake up every morning with a sense of wonder and can live the day in light.

We believe that our hope for good, combined with faith, opens possibilities to us.

We believe that something new with God’s mark on it can emerge from suffering.

We believe that God uses our efforts to make all things new.

We believe that God uses this Bethesda and Immanuel community of people to love actively, to give wise direction and good courage.

Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

Intercessions, each followed by: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other intercession: You know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit & Judy DelMain, Marty Burkel, Janet Hunt, Max Paap, Casey French, Kerissa Morrin, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Bill Peterson, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Sharon Johnson, Joe Volpe, Rhiannon Tourdot, Judy, Holly Tourdot, Judy Faragher, Colleen Nozal, Pastor Dale Chesley, Tim Fleming, Chick Anderson, Westen Michael Wilson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Char Sunde, Chris Pedersen, Jim Brockmann, and Konnie LeMay. Direct our hearts toward the Pastor that you are calling to serve our parish. ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of all creation, **all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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

Prayer after Communion

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn: ELW #613 “*Thy Holy Wings*”

Whether we realize it or not a Holy Presence wraps around all people, and all creation.

Announcements:

Sunday John Thiel's birthday
Monday Book Study 1:00
Tuesday Brunch Bunch 10:00; LSBB 7:00; Tim Glau's birthday
Wednesday South Shore Quilters 9:00; Council meetings 6:00; Linda
 Barnes' birthday
Friday ROMEO 8:00; Knit Wits 1:00; Jim Moeller's birthday;
 Jim Gordon's birthday

Benediction

God always looks for ways to come to you. In all things God will find you.

In Christ's ways you see ways that you yourself can use your abilities to encourage and to bless.

The Spirit will guide you in these things, wherever you go. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #641 "All Are Welcome"

No longer a church mainly for immigrants, we are blessed and stronger because all are welcome here.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God!