

# Morning Worship

**Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM**

**December 1, 2024**

**First 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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit;

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW #715 “*Christ, Be Our Light*”**

**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**

### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

**Bethesda ELW #240** *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v. 1*  
**Immanuel** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All people in one heart and mind  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease  
Fill all the world with heaven's peace**

**Rejoice! rejoice! Take heart and do not fear;  
God's chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.  
(Alternative lyrics by Emmy Kegler)**

### **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

*Refrain: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

<sup>1</sup> To | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O Lord,  
and teach | me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted  
all | the day long.

**<sup>6</sup> Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the  
sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

**<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. Gospel Acclamation:

## Thy word

*Refrain*

F C<sup>7</sup> F B $\flat$  C<sup>7</sup> F B $\flat$  F



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

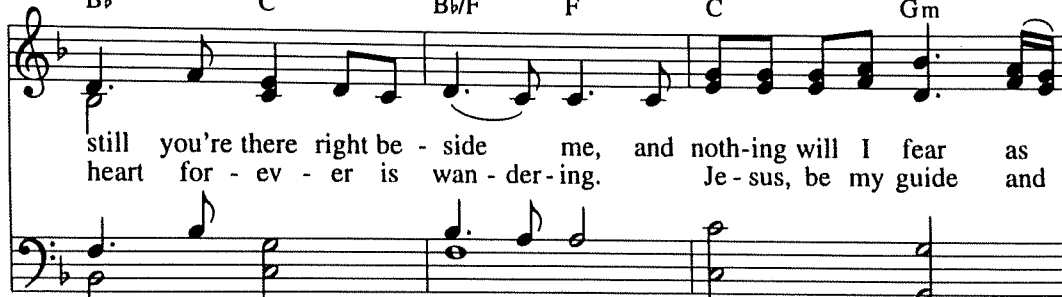
C Gm Dm Am



1 When I feel a - fraid,  
2 I will not for - get

think I've lost my way,  
your love for me, and yet my

B $\flat$  C B $\flat$ /F F C Gm



still you're there right be - side me, and noth - ing will I fear as  
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and

Dm Am B $\flat$  C Dm D A/C $\sharp$  C<sup>sus</sup> C<sup>7</sup> *Refrain*



long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.  
hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

## **Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

### **Praise to you O Christ.**



**Sermon:** Pastor Connie Monson

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW #436 *“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**God waits.**

**We believe in God**

**Three in one**

**Father Son Spirit**

**Paradox**

**Mystery**

**Elemental**

**We believe in a God of Justice**

**Compassion**

**Mercy**

**Hope**

**And first**

**A God of love**

**Love personified**

**Incarnated**

**We believe in God**

**The Mother of Creation**

**God the Father of Humanity**

**God the lover of us all**

**We believe we are called**

**To activity out of passivity and apathy**

**By the Son of God**

**Through his actions**

**Calling down through history**

**Borne on the wings of the Spirit**

**We believe we are called**

**To community with each other**

**Through Christ the thread**

**Weaving us all together**

**We believe that God**

**Has no favourites  
Pulls no punches  
Leaves no stone unturned  
We believe that life is hard  
We believe that life is beautiful  
And so  
We believe  
So does God.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (*especially*). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another (*especially through [local ministries] supported by this congregation*). Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

**Other intercessions:** You know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit Delmain, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Sharon Johnson, Colleen Nozal, Chick Anderson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, Karen Novachek, Stacey Uhlman, John Frederick, Bill Ferraro, Casey French, the family of Ruthann Compton, Mark Peterson, Mary Thomas, Don Hyde, Donnie Anderson, Paul Ehlers, and the family of Cathy Paavola. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (*especially*). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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**

**Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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**

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

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**

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn: ELW #483** *"Here Is Bread"*

## **Announcements:**

Sunday	AA 7:00 at Immanuel; Arnie Carver's birthday; Nathan Leding's birthday
Monday	South Shore Quilters 9:00; Yoga at Bethesda 10:00; Book study on Zoom 1:00
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10:00; Acts Bible Study on Zoom, 1:00; Bethesda Soup Dinner and Decorating 4:00; Andrew Leding's birthday
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9:00; Midday Service 12:00 at Bayfield Presbyterian
Thursday	Immanuel Painters 10:00
Friday	ROMEOS 8:00 & Knit Wits 1:00 at Immanuel

## **Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: ELW #248** *"People, Look East"*

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Reconciling in Christ Statement**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.