Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands 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
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
Amen.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

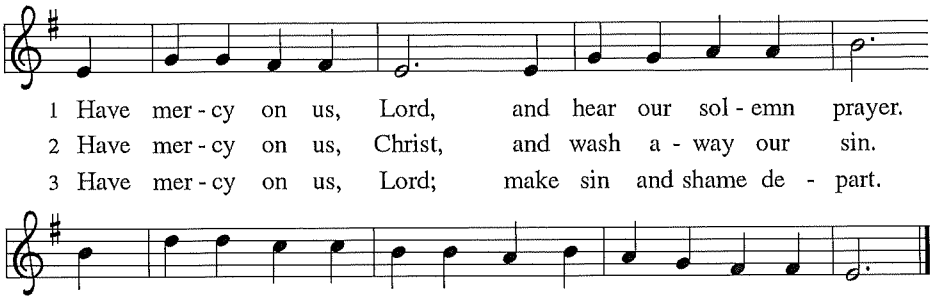
"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW (red hymnal) #260 *"The King Shall Come"*

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.

Kyrie



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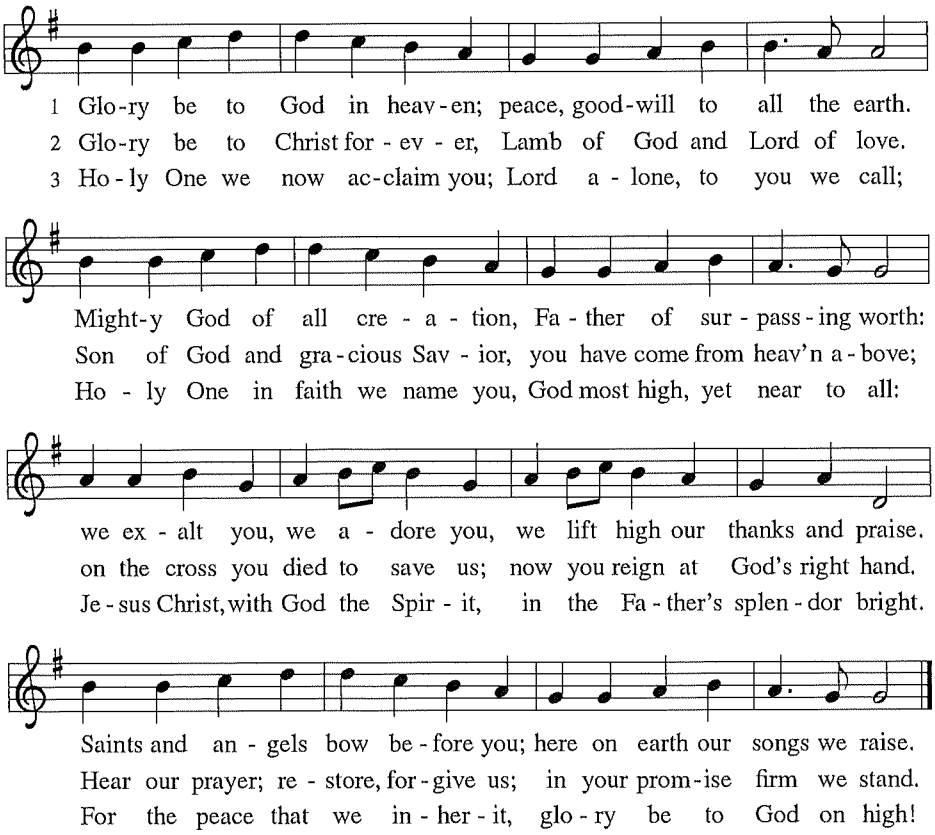
Glory Be to God in Heaven



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Advent Wreath Lighting

Hymn: ELW (red hymnal) #240 *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v. 1*

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 awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Refrain: Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 O Lord | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R

[5] You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
[6] You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[17] Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R
[18] And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
[19] Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

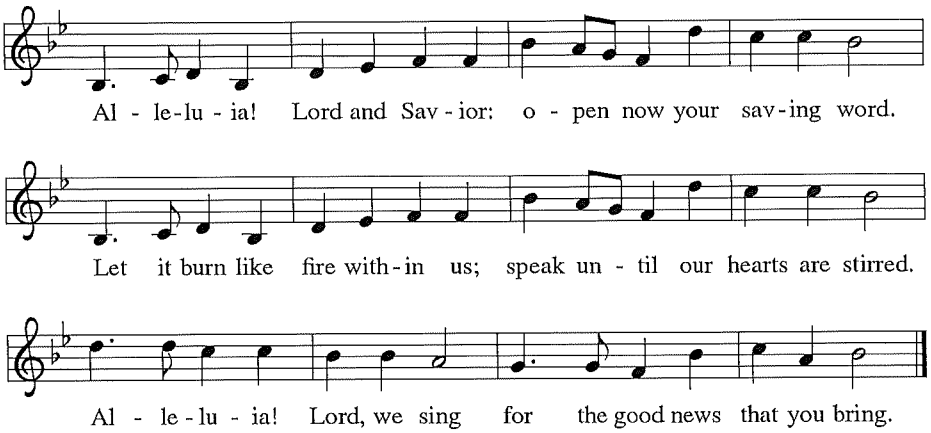
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



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The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until

all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Bishop Martin Halom

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red hymnal) #438 *"My Lord, What a Morning"*

Affirmation of Faith
Christ Jesus,
Child of Mary, God with us,
King and Suffering Servant,
High Priest and Lamb of God,
Teacher and Word,
living, suffering, dying and rising again,
you challenge, redeem and restore us.

Holy Spirit,
Breath of life,
Counsellor and Comforter,
Fire of God,
you inspire, sustain, and purify us.

Forming us in the nature of Christ,
transforming us with your gifts,
you bind us together in one body, your church.

God of all creation,
made known to us in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit,
your boundless love exposes our rebellion and greed.

A mother who will not abandon her child,
a father who welcomes the prodigal home,
you forgive, accept and embrace us
and call us into loving communion for ever.

In life and death we belong to you,
everlasting God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry (*especially*). Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Other intercession: Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Richard, Kermit, Ed, Lorayne, Lois, Courtney, Bill, Chuck & Marcia, Colleen, Rhiannon, Holly, Bennett, Jennifer, Casey, Donnie, Jeanna, Jaycee, Gary & Janet, Britni, Luke, Jarrett, Darlene, Melinda, John, Sandy, Jane, Clyde, Sharon, and those whose names we hold in our heart. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our migrant neighbors who, like most of us and our ancestors, came to this country for a better life. You who freed the captives, protect them from harm. Help us guard their rights to representation and due process. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you. (Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

Offering

We receive two kinds of offerings in gratitude for all that God has done and is doing: a monetary offering for the work of the church in our community and the world, and a food offering for our friends at local food pantries. If you have brought food or supplies this morning, you can place them in the basket at the front of the sanctuary at any time. The offering plate is located in the narthex at the beginning of the service; if you missed it, you are welcome to approach the altar after the service with your gift, or catch us next time!

Offering Prayer

Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

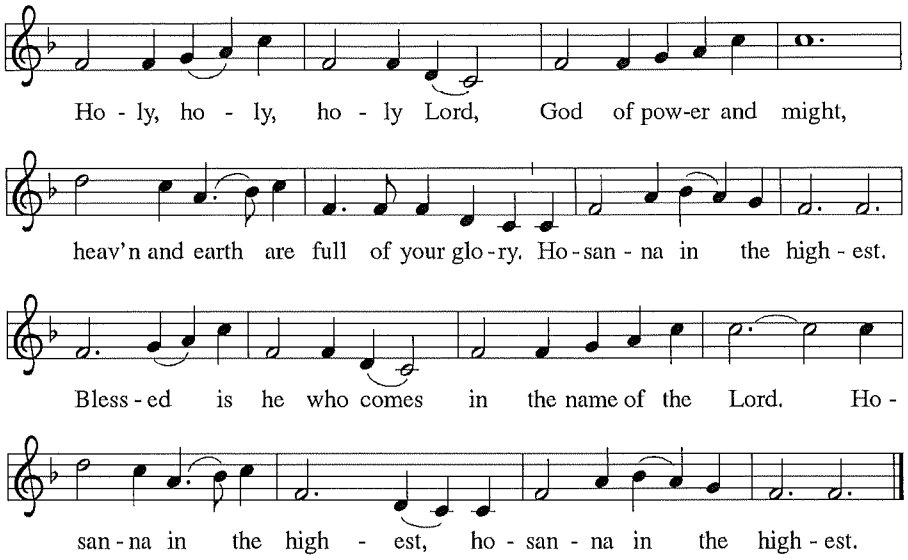
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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.
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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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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

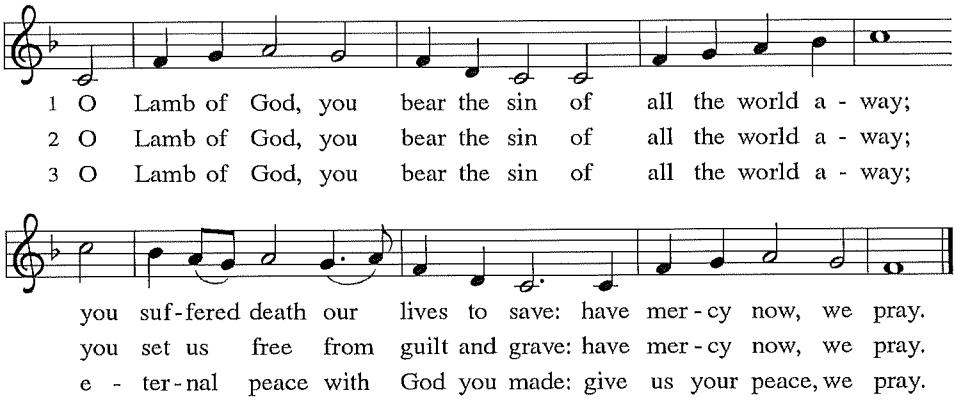
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

O Lamb of God



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Prayer after Communion

Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way

of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Communion Hymn WOV (blue hymnal) #699 *"Blessed Assurance"*

Announcements:
Sunday: AA, 7 pm, Immanuel; Connie Monson's birthday
Monday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Book Study on Zoom, 1 pm
Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Arnie Carver's birthday; Nathan Leding's birthday; Andrew Leding's birthday
Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Advent Service, Immanuel 12:15 pm, Bethesda 3 pm
Friday: ROMEO, 9 am, Farmhouse; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Immanuel

Blessing
God our provider,
God our feast,
God our companion,
☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW (red hymnal) #244 *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"*

Dismissal
Go in peace; serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Postlude

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.