

**Second Sunday of Advent  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
December 8, 2024  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.**



**Welcome to All!** We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138**

**Pre-Worship Music/Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** - Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (2nd verse only, below) ELW 240

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward

**GATHERING**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** God of mercy,

**C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*All Earth Is Hopeful*

*ELW # 266*

**Greeting**

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie** (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Hymn of Praise

## *Glory to God*

Assisting minister S 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

*(continued on next page)*

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 Lesson

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.*

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.  
 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.  
 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

68 Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

**69 You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

70 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

**71 from the hands of all who hate us,**

72 to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

**73 This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:**

74 to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,

**75 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

76 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**77 to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

78 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## Second Lesson

## Philippians 1:3-11

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

## Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel

**Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

## C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

**Pastor Paul Busekist**

**Hymn of the Day** *Prepare the Royal Highway*

**ELW # 264**

## Apostle’s Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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;**

*(continued on next page)*

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Prayers of Intercession:** response after each petition: **“Receive our prayer.”** (*Before prayer*) A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence. (*Conclusion*) P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace** (*Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

### MEAL

**Offering** (*Please be seated*)

**Offering Song:** Zeke Clemons

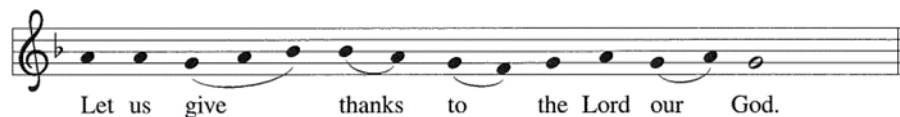
**Offertory** *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* ELW #691

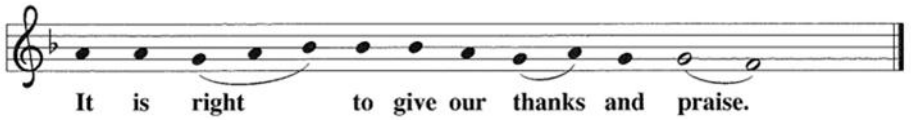
**Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray together.

C: 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**



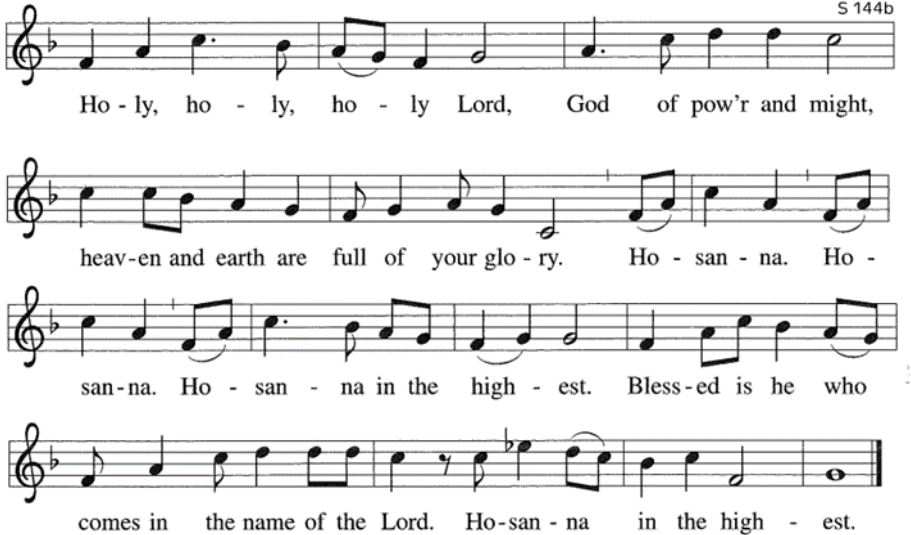


**Great Thanksgiving** *(continued)*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

S 144b



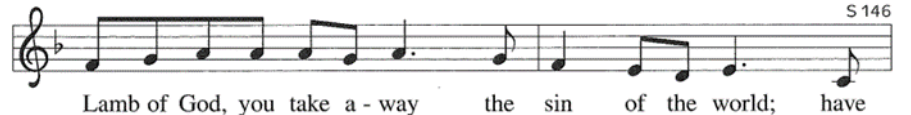
**Words of Institution / The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
\*\*Please note: *Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**Communion** ***Lamb of God***

S 146





mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness  
 For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

*ELW #255  
 ELW #494*

## Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

## Post-Communion Canticle

### *Thankful Hearts*

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.  
 Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.  
 Send us with your prom-is-es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Song

*Hark, the Glad Sound*

*ELW #239*

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** December 8, 2024  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/8—Clark Rasmussen

12/12—Rachell Moyer

12/10—Tim Goebel

12/15—Fran White

12/12—Garth Stowe

### Worship Servants for December 8

Assisting Minister—Sherri Helman

Lector—Barb Graf

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated:

*By the Congregation in Thanks for all of God's blessings*

Hospitality—Leonard & Barb Graf

A/V—Paul Ton / Jim Hinds

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Kay Rumbach

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Barb Graf / Jane Passmore

## **Advent and Christmas Services**

December 12: 7:00pm Holden Evening Prayer with Advent/Christmas Carols

December 19: 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service (will be Live-streamed)

December 24: 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with emphasis on Children (will be Live-streamed)

December 24: 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## **Advent Meals** BLC will be having meals prior to Advent Worship services.

December 12th meal will be Chili with hot dogs rolled in crescent rolls, salad, chips, dessert and beverages.

December 19th will be Blue Christmas and Phil Bossardet will be making a wonderful Christmas dinner with Red wine braised beef, Roasted acorn squash, Brussel sprout-parsnip medley, Cheddar mashed potatoes, Rich gravy, Apple-cranberry compote, Green salad, Dinner breads including some gluten free bread/rolls, Desserts will be Connie Christopherson's pies, also apple crisp.

The Fellowship Committee could use more help in providing the meals. If you would like to help please talk to Gail Goldsmith or call her at 231-633-2630.

**December's XYZ meeting will be on Friday, December 13th, at 12pm noon.** We will be having a ham, so bring sides and desserts to go along with it! Our presenter in December will be Annie Solem from Thrive Medical Clinic (formerly the Pregnancy Care Center), sharing their most recent patient story video and their newly developed education resource for the faith community, "How to Be a Safe Place for Someone in An Unplanned Pregnancy." We hope you can join us for lunch and a great presentation! All adults are welcome!

**Join us on Saturday, December 14th from 10am-12pm in the library at the end of the hall for a cozy morning of arts & crafts!** Alanna will be teaching how to make origami gift boxes out of old Christmas/greeting cards. This is the perfect way to make something new with those beautiful cards that you just can't throw away, or find a use for that pile of unused cards that you may have lying around. The gift boxes are the perfect size for holding jewelry or other small trinkets to keep for yourself or gift to others. All ages welcome! Bring some cards to use (or if you prefer, we will have plenty of extras to use!) and a pair of scissors, and a snack to share if you wish. The Fellowship Committee is generously providing coffee, ice tea, and lemonade! Everyone is welcome to join us! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we know how many chairs to set up.

**Project Feed the Kids** is looking for some help this season to help families with kids to be able to have a Christmas. The need is great, they already have had 700+ families ask for help. That is almost double from last year. If you can or are able to help, please text with "I want to help" 231-409-9227. You can drop unwrapped toys at J&S Hamburg on S Airport off Garfield.

**Counters are needed!** Jim Monroe is looking for offering counters for the calendar year of 2025. Counters will be assigned for a month at a time. Depending on the number of volunteers, it could only be a couple of times per year. To volunteer, please contact Jim at 231-941-0788 or by email at [xcski@chartermi.net](mailto:xcski@chartermi.net)

**Time to join in singing Christmas Carols:** This is the opportunity to bring BLC to some of our members who cannot easily come to BLC. We will go out in small groups to sing Christmas carols to those who have not been able to join us at church. Even if you feel you cannot sing, others have described this as one of the most meaningful activities of their Christmas season. Please set aside time after the service on Sunday December 22. We will plan to have a light meal before we venture out to share out carols.

**Wednesday Bible Studies:**

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of 1 Corinthians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm -- Group will meet on Dec 11th with discussion of a seasonal devotion. Look for dates and topic for when they get back together after the New Year

**BLC ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JAN 5 AFTER THE SERVICE:**

Please attend if you can. It is critical for you to be involved in knowing the financial status of our congregation and in voting to approve the budget for 2025. Copies will be available in church as soon as the proposed budget is approved by church council at its meeting on 12/17. If the service has to be cancelled due to bad weather on Jan 5, the meeting will be postponed to the following Sunday.

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke’s talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

**Wed 12/11 & 12/18—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm**

**Next Month at Safe Harbor!** As the holidays move closer, I want to thank you all again for the gifts of time and food you are planning for our Safe Harbor effort in the New Year. We’ll be serving Safe Harbor guests on Saturday, 25 January; Sunday, 26 January; Tuesday 28 January. Kitchen Teams will be led by Cindy Monroe, B.J. Christensen, and Tina Dohm and the crews they have recruited. Zeke will be entertaining one night and we are seeking more talent- guitar, keyboard, other... We will welcome congregational “treat” support from you with sign-ups right after Christmas. This is needed community outreach. This is heeding Christ’s command to serve our neighbors. All volunteers have been pleased with their experiences. Please contact me with any questions. Tom Rockne Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator M.231.631.0040