

# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.  
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,  
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

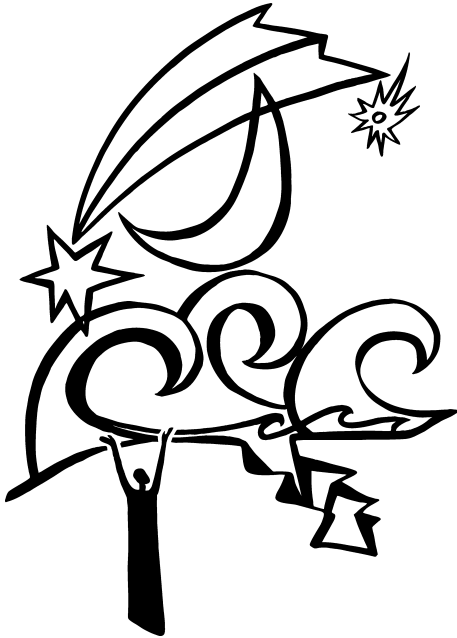
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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 1, 2024

*Pastor Dave Johnson*

### TODAY'S REFLECTION



Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling  
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

*"Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel", page 9*

▲ **Confession & 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 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,

**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.**

## ▲ Prayer of the Day

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.**

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

### ▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

*The First Reading is from Jeremiah 33:14-16*

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. 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. 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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### ▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

*Psalm 25:1-10*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### ▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

*The Second Reading is from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-36*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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.”

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

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”, page 10*

▲ **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 the Church*

For the Church, the world, for one another, and for the sake of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

### *A brief silence*

How precious is your love, dear Father, and how vast your mercy! You made promises to Israel, and through them, to the world. In Jesus, your promises find their Yes. Prepare our hearts for his threefold coming among us: As the Babe of Bethlehem, veiled in human flesh. As Head of the Church, veiled in word and sacrament. And as King of the universe, veiled only in robes of light and love, the glorious Yes who fulfills your ancient promises, and our heart's desire. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Fill your Church with your Holy Spirit, so it may instruct sinners in your way. Strengthen it in holiness. Give it boldness to proclaim your eternal Word. Make it abound in love, especially when persecuted, so that its enemies do not exult, but instead repent and believe in the Good News. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Jews, the flesh and blood kindred of Jesus and our elder brothers and sisters in faith. Banish hatred of them from every heart. Unite us with them in faith toward you and fervent love for one another, under the glorious and gentle rule of the Messiah. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Adorn this congregation with faith, love, mercy, generosity, and holiness. Turn our hearts and hands to adorn with these gifts all who are suffering. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to live at peace with each other. Help seek your will, not our own. Let us use whatever power and authority we have for the common good. Give wisdom, integrity, and common sense to our elected and appointed leaders, and to all who risk their lives in defense of liberty, justice, health, and peace. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We plead on behalf of everyone who needs your merciful care and glorious deliverance – *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Gladden their hearts, heal their bodies, and uphold their spirits with your own Holy Spirit. Surround them with the love and care of all who hold them dear. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we entrust into your care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. Revive our spirits, direct our days and our deeds in your peace, and make us abound in love and in every good work. Strengthen our hearts with the gift of your Spirit, so that we may be blameless at the coming of Jesus. And gather us, with all the redeemed, into your eternal Kingdom, where we shall rejoice in your goodness and righteousness forever. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all these things; for all we lift before you in the silence of our hearts; and for everything that you know we need, we pray in the name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, and commend into your mighty and merciful hands. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

October—December Mission Designation ~ **Adopt-A-Family/Senior**

▼ **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.**

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and 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, 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 and Distribution of Communion**

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table..

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAL BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

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.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”, page 11*

▼ **Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.*

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



# Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
 4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride - groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

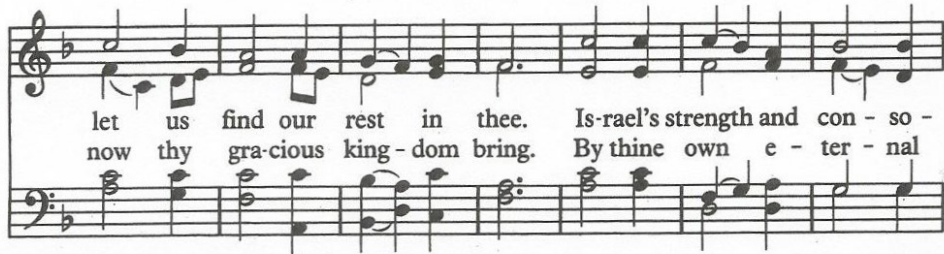
## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



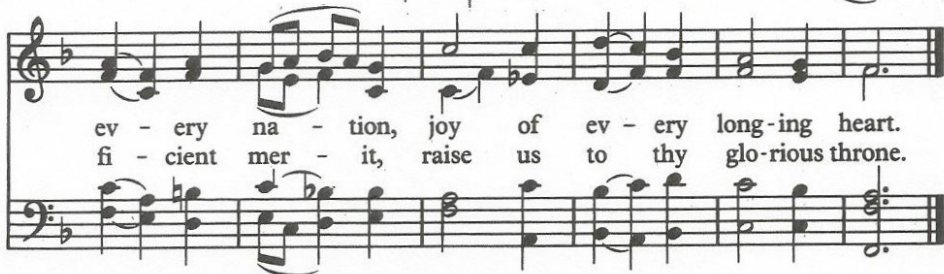
peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal



la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -



ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

**norwaybethany.org:** Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

**facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca:** Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

## MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

## BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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