

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living and sharing the Good News.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Aaron Holmgren, Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Setting 6)

Jan Smith, Organist

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle (*adapted from excerpt of ELCA Advent Study 2017*)

**Light the candle during the singing of "Canticle of Turning" ELW # 723 (st. 4)*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

**Silence for reflection and self-examination*

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen**

Gathering Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW # 257 (st. 5-8)

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 and Canticle of Praise (p. 165)

Rejoicing in God's grace, we sing our Canticle of Praise (p. 169) **This is the feast...**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray; **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Choir Anthem "Born in Bethlehem" by David Lantz

WORD

Scripture Reading Romans 16:25-27 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message "Singing God's Praise"

Gospel Acclamation (p. 171) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?...**

The holy gospel according to Luke the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading First Reader: Luke 1:26-45 Second Reader: Luke 1:46-55

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

Sermon “Mary’s Song”

Hymn of the Day “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” ELW # 573

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Blessing of the Yarn

Prayers of Intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering

We now enter into a time of offering where we joyously share in God’s abundance.

Doxology “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW # 884

Offertory Prayer

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here with us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen

MEAL

We now share in Christ’s holy meal of forgiveness, love, and grace.

Table Prayer **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (p. 172-173)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you...**

Holy, holy, holy...

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer (p. 173)

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Hymns (p. 174) **Lamb of God...**

“Canticle of Turning” ELW # 723

SENDING

Benediction

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn “Joy to the World” ELW # 267

Dismissal Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude