

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope*  
DECEMBER 22, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

**Prelude** *“I Am For You”*

**Welcome and Announcements**

THE GATHERING

*(Please stand.)*

**Song** *“Where the Promise Shines”*

*Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,  
where a voice, forgotten, cries “Prepare the way!”  
Show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;  
bring us to a morning where the promise shines.*

*Lead us on, lead us on  
to a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on  
to a morning where the promise shines*

**Litany**

P Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.  
C **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**  
P When we longed for the silence to be broken,  
C **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**  
P When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,  
C **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**  
P When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,  
C **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.**

P Today we light four candles. The first candle is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The second candle is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The third candle is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The fourth candle reminds us of the light of God’s love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**Song** “*Where the Promise Shines*” (continued)

*Lead us On, lead us on  
to a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on  
to a morning where the promise shines.  
To a morning where the promise shines.*

**Prayer**

- A God of grace, you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son to all who believe. Jesus is the true gift of Advent, shining forth your glory and grace. As the light has grown brighter through the season, we pray that you would shine forth the promise of your hope, peace, joy and love within our lives and within our world.
- C **Amen.**

**Gathering Song** “*The Whole World is Waiting for Love*”

*We're waiting for Jesus like Mary,  
We're waiting for Jesus the Lord.*

*Refrain  
Come down, Lord Jesus!  
Come quickly, Lord Jesus!  
The whole world is waiting for Love,  
The whole world is waiting for Love.*

*We're laying a manger for Mary,  
A manger for Jesus the Lord. Refrain*

*We're making it lovely for Mary,  
So lovely for Jesus the Lord.*

**Greeting**

- P 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.**

## Advent Gathering Song

### ADVENT GATHERING SONG

James J. Chepponis

Gently  
*mp*

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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### Prayer of the Day

**P** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

### THE WORD

#### The First Reading Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Psalm 80:1-7**

A Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
C **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

A Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
C **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

A You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
C **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

A Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading** Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

*(Please stand.)*

**Gospel Acclamation** “*Come and Enter In*”

*Enter in the story, long ago foretold.  
Unto us a child is born to save.  
Hope amidst the longing,*

*love that thrills the soul,  
joy to the Earth,  
and peace that calms the storm.  
Come and enter in.*

**Gospel** Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

*(Please be seated.)*

**Sermon**      **Rev. Elaina Salmon**

*(Please stand.)*

## Hymn of the Day “Canticle of the Turning”

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

### *Refrain*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain*

*From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. Refrain*

## Prayers of the People

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

*(a moment of silence)*

**Song** “*Watch, O Watch*”

*Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.  
Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)*

A God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

A God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,  
C **receive our prayer.**

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

**Song** “*Watch, O Watch*”

*Watch, O watch. The dawn will come.  
Be still, my soul and pray. (repeated)*

**Sharing of Christ's Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE MEAL

### **Invitation to the Offering**

P In faith and hope, let us offer our gifts so that even as we await Christ's coming, we may be a part of what God is doing in the world right now.

### **Offering**

*(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts support the mission of the church to "nurture with love and serve with hope.")*

*(Please stand.)*

### **Offertory Song**      *"Bread of Life"*

*Refrain*

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

*Be with your people, Lord,  
send us your saving Word:  
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,  
come among us now. Refrain*

*Bring to our world of fear  
the truth we long to hear:  
Jesus Christ, hope of ages,  
come to save us now. Refrain*

### **Offertory Prayer**

A 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.

C **Amen.**



## Eucharistic Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

*(Sung response)*

C ***Come, come Emmanuel.***

***Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)***

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

*(Sung response)*

**C** ***Come, come Emmanuel.***

***Come, Emmanuel. (repeated)***

**P** All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**P** Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**C** **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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

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

*(Please be seated.)*

### **Communion Distribution**

### **Communion Songs**

*“Lamb of God”*

*Lamb of God, you take away*

*the sins of the world,*

*have mercy on us,*

*have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away*

*the sins of the world,*

*have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away*

*the sins of the world,*

*grant us peace,*

*grant us peace.*

*“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”*

*Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Come now, O God of love, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

*Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

*Wait for the Lord”*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!*

*(Please stand.)*

### **Communion Blessing**

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

### **Prayer after Communion**

**A** 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**    *“No Wind at the Window”*

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;  
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;  
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:  
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

*"O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.  
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.  
The time for redeeming the world has begun,  
and you are requested to mother God's Son."*

*This child must be born that the kingdom might come:  
salvation for many, destruction for some;  
both end and beginning, both message and sign;  
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;  
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.  
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,  
replied with conviction, "Tell God I say yes."*

**Dismissal**

**P**     Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

**C**     **Thanks be to God!**

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

MariLynn Bergmark	Nancy Iwan	Dick Pierce
Sharon Bolerjack	Monica Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
Hazel Brant	Pat Johnson	Misty Pounder
Scott Browne	Caty K	Brilee Robbins
Anthony Campagna	Zepplyn Killmer	Ken Rose
Gary Cobbett	Lenny Kobilca	Frank Roy
Sidney Colburn	Carrie Koon	Ben Sabourin
Jim Connelly	Rev. John Lang	George Scheel
Beau Dowling	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Maggie Driscoll	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Finley Engnell	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Elwood Faulhaber	Dede Machowski	Sharon Skopec
Judy Faulhaber	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Don Filla	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Abby Galvin	Ruth Ann Miller	Burt Swartz
David Gilchrist	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Chriss Hassel	Linda Nelson	Kayley Koter Taddeo
Marie Heeren	Jane Nilles	Chuck Vlcek
Mike Hoffman	Dave Nommenson	Kyle Williams
Bob Hoster		

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott, Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVING TODAY** — Glenda Anderson

**ACOLYTES** — Madelyn Dixon and Nia Salmon

**MUSICIANS** — Sandy Doebert, Sue Gray and Carol Rhoades

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

We invite you to join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight worship on Tuesday, December 24 at 5pm.

**DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY** were given by Firemen's Association, Hope and Friendship Foundation and St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick Parishes.

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