FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
UNTIL THE DAWN … CRY OUT
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope

NOVEMBER 29, 2026 *PASTOR ELAINA SALMON*

Prelude *"The Time of Darkness Bears a Dream"*

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand.)

THE GATHERING

Candle Lighting Song *"O Christ Be Our Light"*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

P When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.
A When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.
P When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.
A And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.

(Light candle.)

P Like the stars above, may this light shine bright. May it guide our path.
May it inspire deeper hope.
C Until God's promised day, may it be so. Amen.

Sung Response

Christ, be our light.
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light.

Shine in your church gathered today.
Christ, be our light.

Call to Worship

P In God's house, we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
C In God's house, we may come exactly as we are.
P In God's house, we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
C In God's house, all are welcome and all are heard.
P So come and worship.
C God is here. God is listening.
P Let us worship our with-us God.

Gathering Song *"O Come, Great God of Darkness and of Light"*

O come, great God of darkness and of light,
awaken us, and put our fears to flight.
Wipe clear the tears and sleep from our eyes;
spark hope within and give us strength to rise.

O come! O come! Replenish us with joy,
and give us hope that death cannot destroy.

O come, O come, great God for whom we yearn;
our light grows dim, but still the cinders burn.
Fan living embers into a blaze,
the light of justice guiding all our ways.

O come! O come! Replenish us with joy,
and give us hope that death cannot destroy.

O come, Beloved, do not be delayed;
revive us when our fires begin to fade.
Ignite a radiant light all can see,
a lamp of love that makes all shadows flee.

O come! O come! Replenish us with joy,
and give us hope that death cannot destroy.

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.

Hymn of Praise *"Emmanuel"*

Refrain
Come, Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
come now among us.
Come, O come to dwell
within our lives, Emmanuel.

Justice come to bloom and flower;
may your peace begin its reign.
Chains that bound us all will shatter,
your true freedom will remain. Refrain

May the storm calm to a whisper,
let your shining light break through.
Death will falter, love will conquer,
come, Lord Jesus, you renew. Refrain

We await you, come Lord Jesus.
Come, Beloved, you redeem.
We rejoice as you draw near us.
Come, O Savior, set us free. Refrain

Come, O King of all the nations,
Lamb of God, the cornerstone.
Lord, the light of our salvation,
come, Messiah, Jesus, come. Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious God, for generations, we have cried out to you, and you have listened. So as we turn to hear your Word read and proclaimed, give us the ability to listen as well as you do. Give us the ears and the heart to hear your words. In hope we pray. Amen.

C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

The First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

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!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80

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.
C Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

A And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
C Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

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

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 Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said: "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 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.

"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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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 "*For the Troubles and the Sufferings of the World"*

For the troubles and the suff'rings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy:
the whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
from oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for pow'r, the pow'r that will sustain your people's witness:
until your kingdom comes. Kyrie eleison!

Prayers of the People

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

(a moment of silence)

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A Enrich the faith of our siblings at Bethlehem Parish during a time of leadership transitions and building projects. Hold them together in your love; strengthen their unity. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

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

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

A 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,

C receive our prayer.

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

C Amen.

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 As we wait for the dawn to draw near and the world to turn, let us make our offerings as a commitment to God's kingdom come. May our gifts show forth our love for our neighbor as we wait with hope for Christ's coming.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offering Song *"Bread of Life"*

Bread of Life, our consolation
Bread of Life, our source of hope
Bread of Life, our strength and courage
Bread of Life, come make us one

Lamb of God, for all you suffered
Lamb of God, you died and rose
Lamb of God, you'll come in glory
Lamb of God, to lead us home

Word of God, O light eternal
Word of God, foundation strong
Word of God, resound within us
Word of God, forevermore

Bread of Life, our consolation
Bread of Life, our source of hope
Bread of Life, our strength and courage
Bread of Life, come make us one

Offertory Prayer

A Holy God, we offer you these gifts from the bounty which you have entrusted to us. Use these gifts to bless the world with your love, until that great day, when your kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray.
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.**

God of every tomorrow,
God of the stars above us,
God of the sunrise before us,
we gather at your table today.

We gather here, hungry for a better tomorrow.
We gather here, hungry for your promised day.
We gather here, hungry for a glimpse of your Spirit.

So today we pray,
meet us in this holy moment.
Meet us in this ordinary bread and cup.
Meet us as we sing, and pray, and feed one another.
Meet us here like on Jesus' final night with his friends.

In the night 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.

Loving God, pour out your Spirit on this table.
Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread and common cup
to make it the bread of life and cup of salvation.
In this moment may we catch a glimpse of your presence among us.

Until the dawn, we will hold onto gratitude,
we will foster our hope,
and we will pray the prayer your son taught us to pray.

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 Jesus comes to us in this holy moment. Come and be nurtured with his love.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

"O Christ, Lamb of God"

O Christ, Lamb of God
Sharing our weakness, our weakness
Have mercy, have mercy

O Christ, Lamb of God
Bearing our healing, our healing
Have mercy, have mercy

O Christ, Lamb of God
Sharing our story, our story
Oh grant us, grant us Your peace
Oh grant us, grant us Your peace

Amen

"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

(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 Holy One, until the dawn,
until your promised day,
until the sun rises on a world that finally knows peace and harmony,
until all people know their love and worth,
until *that* day,
until *that* dawn,
until *that* holy tomorrow,
we will gather at this Table.
We will break bread,
and we will remember what it looks like for all to be fed.
Thank you, loving God, for meeting us here once more.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P As you leave this place,
may you speak the truth in love,
may you hold fast to courage,
may you be quick to joy,
may you listen for the angels,
and may you build each other up,
until we reach God's promised day—
when the lion will lie down with the lamb and the sun will rise over all of us.
That is what we move toward.
That is what we dream of.
So look toward the horizon, and go with hope.
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song *"God, Who Dwells in Light and Darkness"*

God, who dwells in light and darkness,
God, who guides through fire and cloud,
God, who speaks through law and prophet,
God, whose voice is hushed and loud
you have led us to the mountain,

there to see beyond our sight;
now you lead us to the valleys
through the shadows with your light.

Christ, who shines in light that dazzles,
Christ, whose skin is dark and brown,
Christ, who guides us to the summit,
Christ, who leads us safely down
you have known the heights of heaven,
yet you dwell among us here;
Christ of mountain and of manger,
set us free from pride and fear.

God of lofty and of lowly,
God of night and God of day,
God of doubter and disciple,
God who guides us all the way
in this world of clouds and shadows,
grant us moments of clear sight;
in this world of lies and hatred,
let your truth and love shine bright.

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
C Thanks be to God

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ed Anderson
MariLynn Bergmark
Sue Blender
Hazel Brant
Maureen Brennan
Scott Browne
Evelyn Cahill
Tom Casey
Gary Cobbett
Jim Connelly
Vicki Dieska
Deborah Dixon
Beau Dowling
Finley Engnell
Elwood Faulhaber
Brian Gilchrist
David Gilchrist
Terri Hacker
Charlie Hagedorn
Mike Hoffman
Emma Jean Howell
Monica Johnson
Pat Johnson
Karen Jutzi
Jessica Kean
Zepplyn Killmer
Lenny Kobilca
Melanie Kohn
Carrie Koon
Rev. John Lang
Nancy Lang
Sue Lucheon
Scott Lundgren
Dede Machowski
Ashley Maestre
Hanna Mau
Bill McAdam
Jim McKeever
Devin Mulcahy
Omni Rook Myers
Linda Nelson
Dave Nommenson
Charlotte Pohlman
Misty Pounder
Brilee Robbins
Ken Rose
Frank Roy
Ben Sabourin
Bernie Schroeder
Tim Schroeder
Virginia Schroeder
Josh Shaw
Kathy Shingler
Sharon Skopec
Gene Sobba
Gary Sperka
Dom Thielmann
Rick Vorel
Kyle Williams
George Woolet

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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
ACOLYTE — Caedmon Kissick
MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray
TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

ITEMS TO TAKE WITH YOU

Special Advent Devotionals that match our "Until the Dawn" Advent theme are available to take home. One per household please. There are also postcards that detail our Christmas Schedule that can be used to invite friends and family to our Longest Night and Christmas Services. The most effective evangelism is personal invitation!

🎁 A GIFT TO GIVE HOLIDAY SHOP

A Gift to Give Holiday Shop is back for a second year. This is a special event where children from families in need can experience the joy of giving by choosing, wrapping, and sharing gifts for their loved ones. We invite you to help make this event possible! Donations of new items ($15–$25) for men or women are greatly appreciated. You may also donate unused items from home to be "re-gifted," or contribute wrapping supplies (paper, tape, bows, ribbons). A donation bin will be located in the back of the church in November.

If you'd prefer to give financially, envelopes will also be available starting in November on the back table — simply place your gift in the offering. If you know a family in need with children who would like to participate, please contact Pastor Elaina or Stephanie Guglielmucci (773-255-5023). Thank you for helping us share the true spirit of Christmas — the joy of giving!

SWEDISH POTATO SAUSAGE

Bethany's Swedish Potato Sausage Sale is happening on Sunday, December 20. We'll need all our helpers for peeling, chopping, mixing, filling, and selling the Swedish potato sausage. The price is $8.00/pound and we will start taking orders on Dec 1st until Dec.15th, or until we sell out.
To place an order, scan the QR code or call the church office at 630-257-7953 by December 15th. Sausage can be picked up on December 20 between 9:30AM-11:30AM.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to order a poinsettia, order forms are available. Kindly turn in your orders to the church office by December 13th. Please call the office at 630-257-7953 or email bethanylmt@aol.com.

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Bethany would like to put together a picture directory for our faith community so that we can nurture connections. Please send a picture to bethanylmt@aol.com to be included. This can be a formal picture done by a photographer or an informal picture taken from your phone.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by River Valley School, Hyde Park Day School, St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick Parishes and Knights of Columbus.

MUSIC AVAILABLE
If a hymn number is listed with a song, you can find the music in the red hymnal in your pew. We have packets available at the back table that include the songs for the day.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is available to support Bethany Lutheran Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: bethanylemont.org and click the Donate button on the homepage.