



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

*Truth – Relevance – Inspiration*

Saturday, 12/3 at 4 pm; Sunday, 12/4 at 9 am

Second Sunday in Advent – 2022



This Service Is **Divine Service, Setting Three** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 184-202).

Join us on Wednesdays in Advent: Service at 11, Meal at 12; Meal at 6, Service at 7

**DIVINE SERVICE:** *Let us gladly receive God's gifts through word and sacrament!*

- ✦ **Visitors:** *Welcome! Please take a visitor basket (Narthex) and introduce yourself to the pastor.*
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** *Use a "yellow" card (Narthex).*
- ✦ **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex); Children's Message (please come forward).*
- ✦ **Phone:** *Please silence.*
- ✦ **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in the Narthex.*
- ✦ **Service Folder:** *Get it on your smartphone: [www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder](http://www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder)*
- ✦ **Worship From Your Car:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).*

**WELCOME – THE SEASON OF ADVENT:**

L: Jesus is coming!

C: **Let us live in continual repentance!**

**Sunday** ➔ **CHOIR:** What Is Confession?

**PRESERVICE CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:**

L: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

L: Let us pray: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we *have sinned in thought, word, and deed*, and that we *cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition*. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, *our heavenly Father*, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:  
God, be merciful to me a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, ♪have mercy upon us, ♪forgive us our sins, and ♪lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, *merciful Father*, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Sunday** ➔ **PRELUDE:** Carol of Beauty (French Carol)

*Since, through Jesus, our sins are forgiven,  
let us be in awe of God's love and mercy!*

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

↑ **INVOCATION** – *We ask God to give us His precious gifts by the Spirit through the word:*

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**HYMN:** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***Sing to the tune of TLH 58, First Tune***

See the words below / TLH 58 / LSB 334

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.

- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

**KYRIE** (Mark 10:46-52): *Let Us Pray:*

*We ask Jesus to help us with our earthly needs!*

- L: O Lord, C: **have mercy upon us.**  
L: O Christ, C: **have mercy upon us.**  
L: O Lord, C: **have mercy upon us.**

**SALUTATION and COLLECT:**

- L: The LORD be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**  
L: *Let us pray.* Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to clearly see our sins, be filled with godly sorrow, fully embrace our all-sufficient Savior, and put Him first in our daily lives; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C: **Amen.** ↓ Children! **Gather in the first pew!**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** Repent / Change



- Praying before you eat > from sometimes to every meal!
- Reading the Bible > from once a week to once a day!
- Attending Church > from once a month to twice a week (during Advent & Lent)!

**Today's OT Reading Is the Sermon Text for This  
Coming Wednesday**

**Join Us to Learn, Focus on Jesus, and Benefit**

- ➔ Service at 11:00; Free Meal at 12:00
- ➔ Free Meal at 6:00; Service at 7:00

**PSALM 72:1-7 ESV**

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

**A Prayer for Solomon and, later, for Jesus**

- 1 Give the king your justice, | O God,\*  
and your righteousness to the | royal  
son!
  - 2 May he judge your people with |  
righteousness,\*  
and your poor with | justice!
  - 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the |  
people,\*  
and the hills, in | righteousness!
  - 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the  
people, give deliverance to the children of  
the | needy,\*  
and crush the op- | pressor!
  - 5 May they fear you while the | sun  
endures,\*  
and as long as the moon, throughout all  
gener- | ations!
  - 6 May he be like rain that falls on the | mown  
grass,\*  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!
  - 7 In his days may the righteous | flourish,\*  
and peace abound, till the moon | be  
no more!
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**EPISTLE: Romans 15:4-13 NAS-95**

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1766 / Own Bible

**Unity in Christ**

**4 For whatever was written in earlier times  
was written for our instruction, so that through**

perseverance and the encouragement of the  
Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> Now may the  
God who gives perseverance and encouragement  
grant you to be of the same mind with one  
another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with  
one accord you may with one voice glorify the  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ  
also accepted us to the glory of God.

*[Even though we have sinned, Christ accepts us, so  
let us accept all who believe in Jesus.]*

**Christ Is the Hope of Jews and Gentiles**

<sup>8</sup> For I say that Christ has become a servant  
to the circumcision [*that is, the Jews*] on behalf of  
the truth of God to confirm the promises *given to*  
the fathers, [*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*],<sup>9</sup> and for  
the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is  
written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU  
AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO  
YOUR NAME."

<sup>10</sup> Again he says, "REJOICE, O GENTILES,  
WITH HIS PEOPLE."

<sup>11</sup> And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU  
GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE  
HIM."

<sup>12</sup> Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME  
THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO  
RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE  
GENTILES HOPE."

<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all  
joy and peace in believing, so that you will  
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

See the words below / TLH 63 / LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

SERMON and GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12 NAS-95



1. **The Emphasis of John's Ministry:** <sup>1</sup> Now in those days [at the beginning of his ministry] John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
2. **A Prophecy about John:** <sup>3</sup> For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet [in chapter 40] when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"
3. **A Description of John:** <sup>4</sup> Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

4. **God's Work through John:** <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup> and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.
5. **When People are Repentant, it will be Obvious:** <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
  - a. Align your life with your confession: "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; <sup>9</sup> and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham."
  - b. Take action NOW: <sup>10</sup> "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
6. **John Compares His Baptism with Jesus' Baptism:** <sup>11</sup> "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
7. **John Points Ahead to the Final Judgment:** <sup>12</sup> "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

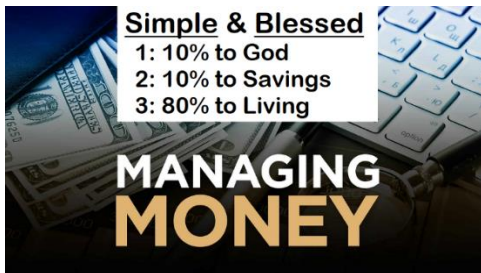
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## SERMON RESPONSE: *Sung*

See the words below / LSB 192-193

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## NICENE CREED: *See back of either hymnal*



- **Thanks for honoring the LORD:** By giving to His work ♦first, ♦proportionately, and ♦faithfully.
- **Offering:** A plate is available in the center aisle.

## ↑ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *Let Us Pray*

**After Each Petition:** L: LORD, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Reminder:** God always can help and heal, but it doesn't mean He always will; *most important is knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord!*

### **For our Nation**

- ➔ **For Persecuted Christians:** *Lord Jesus, grant courage that we may confess Your saving name in the face of any opposition from a world hostile to the Gospel. Help us to remember Your faithful people who sacrificed much and even faced death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. By Your Spirit, strengthen us to be faithful and to confess You boldly, knowing that You will confess us before the Father in heaven.*

- ➔ **For Parents and Grandparents:** *To teach and model God's word!*
- ➔ **For Teachers:** *To teach their students only what is true and wholesome!*
- ➔ **Armed Forces:** *For toughness, strength, and courage!* James Martin, Chris Sala, Warren Gellings, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Drew Tenney, Chris Weseloh
- ➔ **Safety Forces:** *For community support, judicial support, courage, and safety!*

### **For our Congregation**

NAU **James 5:16** ...pray for one another...

- ➔ **Classes – BC & SS:** *For well-prepared teachers and attentive students – hearing, understanding, and applying God's word!*
- ➔ **Childcare Center:** *For increased enrollment, and success in reaching the unchurched with God's love and transforming truth!*
- ➔ **Care:** *For those who cannot attend: Wally A, Helga B, David C, Jeanette D, Carole G, Nancy H, Edmund & Christl K, Elsa M, Regina M, Bonnie M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Mike & Susanna T (They get a mailing each week and a visit each month. Someone missing? Let us know!)*
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** *Norma S (leader); Alan C, Nancy B (ministers); and care receivers.*
- ➔ **Grief Share:** *For blessings on the facilitators and all attendees – Tuesdays at 6:30.*
- ➔ **Outreach:**
  - *For our members who use Facebook to ♦LIKE and ♦SHARE the church post each week – to share the content with their friends!*
  - *For everyone to read, think, share!*
- ➔ **Comfort and Peace:** *For the family of Hedwig Giesz, she passed away after a very short illness on Wed, 11/30. Her funeral is scheduled for Sat, 12/10 at 11 AM, here at Bethlehem.*
- ➔ **Health Concerns:** *See below for names and needs, then pray accordingly! Thanks!*



**This Week: 12/4 – 12/10**

- **Carol Dickau** (2) – hip replacement, 11/4.
- **Trudy Fischler** (2) – broken hip, (rehabbing at Parkside Villa, 7040 Hepburn Rd., Middleburg Hts.); *send her a card!*
- **Eleanor Lewis** (2) – skin cancer.
- **Jerry Huttner** (2) – brain cancer.
- **Jim Jenni** (3) – rehabbing from a stroke.
- **Mike Kaderle** (2) – weak heart.
- **Connie Pysz** (2) – dialysis.
- **Debbie Stender** (3) – hip repl. on 12/20.
- **Bill Sweeny** (2) – dialysis, rehab.
- **Harold Weseloh** (2) – eye and heart issues.

**For Others**

➔ **Health Concerns:**

- **Kimberly Borland** (3) – rare connective tissue disorder, upcoming surgery.
- **Anny Bracken** (2) – foot surgery on 11/18.
- **Melanie Himmelberger** (1) – bone cancer.
- **Elsa Manti** (2) – congestive heart failure.
- **Dave McCollum** (1) – recently had a stroke.
- **Michelle Schneider** (3) – liver/kidney issues.
- **Mark Woodward** (2) – lung cancer, chemo.

**Celebrate and Give Thanks**

**Physical Birthdays:**

12/5 Regina Mild  
12/5 Norma Sweeny  
12/9 Alan Blaha

**Spiritual Birthdays:**

12/4 Andrew Green  
12/4 Gloria Hurka  
12/6 Steve Pysz  
12/6 Nick Ventura  
12/7 Linda Blaha

**Sunday:**

- ➔ **9:00** Divine Service
- ➔ **10:15** Prayer – *see a Stephen Minister*
- ➔ **10:15** Refreshments – *Join us down the hall*
- ➔ **10:30** Classes:
  - ✦ Adults: The Christmas Story: Studying through Luke chapters 1 and 2
  - ✦ Youth and Children: God calls Moses

**Tuesday:**

- ➔ **4:00** – Youth Confirmation – Zoom
- ➔ **6:00** – Grief Share

**Wednesday:**

- ➔ **9:30** – BFC Bible Time
- ➔ **11:00** – Advent Service
- ➔ **12:00** – Free Meal
- ➔ **12:30** – Stephen Ministry
- ➔ **6:00** – Free Meal
- ➔ **7:00** – Advent Service

**Thursday:**

- ➔ **10:00** – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

**Friday:**

- ➔ **12:00** Pray – *Gather at the altar*

**Saturday:**

- ➔ **3:00** Bible Class
- ➔ **4:00** Divine Service

**Conclusion:**

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

**Let Us Have the Attitude of Jesus When He Prayed:**

Not My will, but Your will be done. Then, *let us accept God's will and be at peace in Jesus!*

**HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

See the words below / TLH 62 / LSB 357

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**  
**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**Shall come to thee, O Israel!**
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord' rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
**Refrain**
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

**BENEDICTION:** *Believe and Be Blessed*

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord  
make his face shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you; the Lord lift up His *countenance*  
(face) upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**READ ➡ THINK ➡ SHARE:**

**Read:** John the Baptizer said: "...bear fruit in  
keeping with repentance..." (Matt. 3:8 NAS-95).

**Think:** Since repentance is essential for salvation,  
think about repentance and ask:

- Am I sorry for my sins?
- Am I trusting in Jesus as my Savior?
- Am I turning from my sins?

**Share:** Challenge someone to Read and Think!

**POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:**

Savior of the Nations, Come

**Help Make Our Church Beautiful for Christmas**

- ➡ **Tree and Other Decorations:** Help  
Us Decorate Our Church – **12/4 at**  
**11:45.**
- ➡ **Place Your Order:** *Deadline is 12/11.*  
*Cost \$16.* Use your attendance slip  
and an envelope from the Narthex.



**Christmas Blessing Outreach**

**We would like to bless a family in need within  
our congregation this Christmas!** God knows all  
their needs and will provide— but may He help us  
in blessing this family with **monetary donations**  
and/or **gift cards**. There are envelopes available  
in the narthex! You may put your blessing in the  
offering plate or give it to Kathy Green. **We will**  
**be collecting through December 18.** Thanks!



**Advent Wednesdays** – **11/30, 12/7, and 12/14:**

- ➡ Service at 11:00; Free Meal at 12:00
- ➡ Free Meal at 6:00; Service at 7:00

**Christmas Eve:**

- ➡ Saturday, 12/24 at **4:00** (no class)

**Christmas Day:**

- ➡ Sunday, 12/25 at **10:00** (no class)

**New Year's Eve:**

- ➡ Saturday, 12/31 at **4:00** (no class)

**New Year's Day:**

- ➡ Sunday, 1/1 at **10:00** (no class)

## Blessings on Your Week

*Stay Close to Jesus!*

➔ **Listen** to God through His word:

- Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15
- Attend “Living the Lutheran Lectionary” on Thursdays at 10:00

## Thanks For Serving on 12/3 & 12/4

**Altar Guild:** Heather H

**Saturday:** Music: Kathy G; Usher: Matt K

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P  
Pastor Team: Matthias M  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E  
Sunday School: Stacey J, Harold W

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Paul M

## Thanks For Serving on 12/10 & 12/11

**Altar Guild:** Nancy B

**Saturday:** Music: Kathy G; Usher: Matt K

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P  
Pastor Team: Harold W  
Ushers: Terry T, Larry H  
Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E  
Sunday School: Heather H, Cedrick H

**Financial Team:** Natalia F, Tricia W

## Numbers From Last Week

### Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **32**; car: **4**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **38**; car: **0**
- Wednesday at 11 & 7 – Inside: **38**; car: **0**

### Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **13**
- Sunday at 10:30: **46**
- Thursday at 10: **6**

### Supported God's Work:

- **Needed** Each Week (budget): **4,826**
- **Received** Last Week (actual): **3,560**
- **Gross Surplus YTD** As of last week: **18,436 – Thanks!**
- **Net Surplus YTD** As of last month: **10,595 – Thanks!**

## Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** [BLC7500.com](http://BLC7500.com) ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

**Services:** Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma

**Church Office:** Wed & Thu: 9:30-4:00; Sat: 2:00-6:00

**Pastor Green:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915

**Childcare Center:** Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00

**Studies:** Thurs at 10:00; Sat at 3:00; Sun at 10:30

**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

**Kathy Green:** [Secretary@blc7500.com](mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com); 440-845-2230

**Church Body:** [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) District: [oh.lcms.org](http://oh.lcms.org)

**Tricia Wise:** [ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com](mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com); 440-884-0430