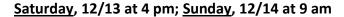


# **Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2025**

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance





# An Advent Quiz – What Do You Know?

Church Year: Third Sunday in Advent | Divine Service: Setting One, LSB 151-166

#### WELCOME:

- Wisitors: Welcome! See our Welcome Table, sign our book, take a bag, and tell us how we can help!
- © Prayer Request: Use a "yellow" card (Narthex).
- © <u>Young Children</u>: Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- (join us).
- © **Phone:** Please put on silent.
- (i) **Hearing Assistance**: Available in the Narthex.
- Service Folder: Available on your smartphone: www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder
- (a) Worship From Your Car: Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

# **BELL and CANDLELIGHTING** – Please be seated!

**PRELUDE:** We listen in silence... Hark the Glad Sound the Promised Savior Comes! Powell

#### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

A Psalm of David after his sins of adultery and murder

- L: In the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- C: Amen.
- L: <u>Let us pray</u>: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
- C: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
- C: and cleanse me from my sin!
- L: For I know my transgressions,
- C: and my sin is ever before me.

- L: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
- C: so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- L: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
- C: and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- L: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
- C: and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
- C: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- L: Let me hear joy and gladness;
- C: let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- L: Hide your face from my sins,
- C: and blot out all my iniquities.
- L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- C: and renew a right spirit within me.
- L: Cast me not away from your presence,
- C: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
- C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- L: Good news! God loves us and has sent His Son to buy us back! For all who ♦have godly sorrow and ♦are trusting in Jesus for eternal life, be sure based on God's unshakable promises that your sins are forgiven!
- C: Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ⇒ Hymn

Sunday → Entrance Hymn and BIBLE Procession

# ↑ HYMN: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding Sing to the tune of LSB 367

See the words below / TLH 60 / LSB 345 (Refrain: RLG)

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say. "Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"

# Refrain: Turn and listen, turn and listen, Jesus Christ is near today.

- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies. Refrain
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n; Refrain

# KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:46-52

- L: O Lord, You are coming soon,
- C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Christ, we stand in need of Your light,
- C: have mercy upon us.
- L: O Lord, we are criminals in need of pardon,
- C: have mercy upon us.

# SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- C: And also with you.
- L: <u>Let us pray</u>: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C**: **Amen**. **♦** *Children! Please come forward!*

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** An Advent Quiz

- 1. What is our color for Advent? \_\_\_\_
- 2. Advent is a time of preparation; who is coming?

Do we celebrate Jesus' birthday during Advent? Y N

# **OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 35:1-10

NAS-20

# This reading alludes to three joyous occasions

### The return of the exiles from Babylon

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will rejoice, And the desert will shout for joy and blossom; Like the crocus <sup>2</sup>It will blossom profusely And rejoice with joy and jubilation. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the exhausted, and make the feeble strong. <sup>4</sup> Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance; The retribution of God will come, But He will save you."

# Jesus' first coming to remove sins

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened, And the ears of those who are deaf will be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then those who limp will leap like a deer, And the tongue of those who cannot speak will shout for joy. For waters will burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup>The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass *becomes* reeds and rushes.

# Jesus' second coming to reverse the curse of sin

<sup>8</sup> A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it *will* be for the one who walks *that* way, And fools will not wander *on it*. <sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious animal go up on it; They will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk *there*, <sup>10</sup> And the redeemed of the LORD will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

# **PSALM:** 146:1-2, 10

**ESV** 

#### Praise the LORD

- L: Praise the LORD!
- C: Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
- C: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being....
- The LORD will reign forever,
- C: your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!
- A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### EPISTLE: James 5:7-11

NAS-20

# Do not complain! Be patient!

<sup>7</sup>...be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Do not complain, brothers and sisters, against one another, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10 As an example, brothers and sisters, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

# **↑** ALLELUIA and VERSE

**LSB 156** 

John 6:68

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

# **HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:2-15

- L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
- C: Glory to You, O LORD.

#### John's Questions

<sup>2</sup> Now while in prison, John heard about the works of Christ, and he sent word by his disciples, <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?"

## Jesus' Response

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 those who are BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and those who limp walk, those with leprosy are cleansed and those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me."

#### Jesus' Tribute to John

<sup>7</sup> As these disciples of John were going away, Jesus began speaking to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings' palaces! 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

> 'BEHOLD, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

11 "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been treated violently, and violent men take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept it, John himself

is Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup> The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.



To better understand - watch, listen to, or read my 2022 sermon: https://blc7500.com/Sermons/49661/Details

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.
- I lay in fetters [chains], groaning; 3 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.

# **SERMON:** An Advent Ouiz

May the Holy Spirit enable us to better understand the season and rejoice in our coming Savior!

# Circle your choice for each question:

- 1) a b c d
- 2) bс
- 3) а b c d

4) а b С d 5) b c d 6) b c d a 7) b c d 8) d b С a 9) d С а b 10) b c d а 11) b c d a 12) b c d a 13) a b c d 14) а b С d 15) b

#### Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

# 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

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase: Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace. He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n, His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.

# **ATHANASIAN CREED** – A section about Christ!

- L: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.
- L: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father, before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

- C: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;
- L: Equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- C: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:
- L: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C: one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
- L: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C: Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,
- L: ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**Offering:** Plates are available in the center aisle.

The LORD has blessed us with life, salvation, and all we need, let us trust Him, thank Him, honor Him!

#### **↑** PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Request a Prayer: Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card (available in the Narthex).

Prayer List Procedure: Names with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person; update Kathy (call: 440-845-2230; text: 440-785-3802).

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

C: Hear our prayer.

➡ Evil Online... NAS 2 Timothy 2:22 "Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." ■ Islam in the US... As they seek to dominate, tax, convert, and/or destroy us. Let us pray that they would be brought to know Jesus.

# Congregation

- Advent and Christmas Services... Dear LORD, we pray for good weather, good attendance, good understanding of Your word, and good response.
- Care List: Helga B, Zach B, Doris C, Sandy C, Carole G, Esther H, Hilda K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Rose R, June R, Jean S, Bill S, Cindy T, Vicki T, Mike & Susanna T (most are offered regular mailings and visits).
- Grief Share Program: As the current cycle concludes this Tuesday, we give thanks for our faithful <u>facilitators</u> and pray for God's comfort, peace, and guidance to all <u>attendees</u>.
- → <u>Stephen Ministry</u>: Blessings to our Stephen Ministers and those who receive their care!
- → <u>Altar Flowers</u>: Given to the glory of God by Miriam Engelman in memory of her husband, Fred (who passed to heaven: 12/16/2009).
- Temporary Health Issues:
  - Cedrick Hilliker (3) shoulder: full recovery.
  - Caleb Hlavacek (3) broken leg; healing.
  - Matt Hlavacek (2) Lyme disease: healing.
  - Matt Kussmaul eye issues: cont. healing.
  - <u>Cindy Taress</u> (3) throat, tongue, swallowing issues from radiation: relief, healing.
  - Rand Stender (2) knee: cont. healing, rehab.
  - <u>Bill Sweeny</u> pray for peace in Jesus, gratitude for many blessings, confidence in God's promises, and physical strength.
  - Terry Tomasch(2) knee: cont. healing, rehab.
  - Harold Weseloh (1) surg: healing, rehab.

# **For Others**

- Temporary Health Issues:
  - <u>Jennifer</u> (3) *peace, prop. diag., healing.*

- <u>Linda Bradshaw</u> (3) continued healing and settling into her new living situation.
- Kimberly Borland (3) deep wound: healing.
- **Stacey Dames** (3) *peace, healing, guidance.*
- Melanie Himmelberger cancer: comfort.
- <u>Bernice Mease</u> (3) kidney cancer: *healing*.
- <u>Linda McKay</u> (3) broken arm: *cont. healing*.
- Shirley Prok (1) hospital: proper diagnosis.
- <u>Luke Schave</u> (1) cancer: trying new drug therapy: peace, treatment success, healing.
- Bethany Transue (3) lymphoma: healing.
- Jim Vrabel (1) foot: successful skin grafts.

# Celebrate and Give Thanks

## **Physical Birthdays:**

12/17 Matt Kussmaul

12/18 Jim Vrabel

12/19 Eileen Kovach

# **Spiritual Birthdays:**

12/19 Don Dickau

# **Wedding Anniversaries:**

12/17 Pastor & Kathy Green (48th)

#### **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. **↓**

# THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN:

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord See the words below LSB 637

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured; Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,

To all believers life eternal yields; With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,

Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
 And take the pledges of salvation here.
 O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

# LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION: 1 Cor. 11:28 Let's be serious, understand, and benefit! Please ask yourself these 10 questions...

1. Do I believe the Bible is true? Y N John 17:17

2. Am I sorry for my sins? Y N 2 Cor. 7:10

3. Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life? Y N Ac. 4:12

**4.** Am I baptized? Y N Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5

5. Do I desire to live for Christ? Y N 2 Cor. 5:15

**6.** Am I forgiving all others? Y N Mark 11:25

- 7. Am I doing my part to reconcile? Y N Mt. 5:23-24
- **8.** Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood? Y N 1 Cor. 10:16
- Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins? Y N Matt. 26:26-28
- 10. Do I understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)?
  Y N
  1 Cor. 10:15-22

<u>Uncertain?</u> Ask an usher for "The Lord's Supper" brochure and "A Simple Explanation of Christianity."

The pastor would be glad to talk/meet with you!

# ↑ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25

# **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST:** Jesus Lived, Suffered, and Died to Remove Our Sins!

L: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He

comes. 1 Cor. 11:26
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Rev. 22:20

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess

◆Your holy cross and passion, ◆Your blessed death, ◆Your rest in the tomb, ◆Your resurrection from the dead, ◆Your ascension into heaven, and ◆Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

# LORD'S PRAYER: See the back of either hymnal.

A: Our Father who art in heaven... Matt. 6:9-13

#### PAX DOMINI ~ Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

John 1:29

See the words below / LSB 346

Behold the Lamb of God
 That bears the world's transgression,
 Whose sacrifice removes
 The devil's dread oppression.
 Behold the Lamb of God,
 Who takes away our sin,

Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

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#### **DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:**

- If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- Receive. Go in peace. Return via a side aisle.
- Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

#### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Hope, Peace, Joy

Leavitt

#### LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:** Let Us Pray

L: Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body

and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

↑ HYMN: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sing to the tune of LSB 367

See the words below / TLH 60 / LSB 345 (Refrain: RLG)

4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near. Refrain

Refrain: Turn and listen, turn and listen, Jesus Christ is near today.

Honor, glory, might, dominion
 To the Father and the Son
 With the ever-living Spirit
 While eternal ages run! Refrain

# BENEDICTION ~ Blessing

Num. 6:24-26

- L: The Lord the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ◆be within you to refresh you, ◆be before you to guide you, ◆be around you to protect you, ◆be beneath you to uphold you, and ◆be above you to bless you.
- C: Amen. **↓**

#### **CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE:**

Hark the Glad Sound

#### **December Newsletter – Available in the Narthex**

ORDER your poinsettia! The deadline is TODAY – 12/14 See attendance slip for directions!

Free Meals: Wednesday at 12 & 6

<u>Help Needed!</u> Do you like numbers? We can use an additional offering counter (once a month commitment). Contact Natalia F: 440.289.3099.

Schedule: 12/14/25 - 12/21/25

12/15 - Monday

6:30 - Youth Confirmation

12/16 - Tuesday - 6:30 - Grief Share

12/17 - Wednesday

11:00 - Advent Service

Noon – Lunch

6:00 – Supper

7:00 - Advent Service

12/18 – Thursday

10:00 – Living the Lutheran Lectionary

<u> 12/20 – Saturday</u>

3:00 - Bible Class

4:00 - Divine Service

12/21 - Sunday

9:00 - Divine Service

10:30 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 12/13 & 12/14

Altar Guild: Kathy G

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P <u>Usher</u>: Matt K

<u>Distribution</u>: Brad S

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

<u>Distribution</u> – Matthias M Ushers: Terry T, Larry H

**Refreshments**: The Hilliker Family & others

Sunday School: Stacey J, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

Thanks For Serving on 12/20 & 12/21

Altar Guild: Nancy B, Heather H

**Saturday:** Organist: Gayle P Usher: Matt K

Distribution: Brad S

**Sunday:** Organist: Gayle P

<u>Distribution</u> – Cedrick H Ushers: Terry T, Larry H

<u>Refreshments</u>: The Hilliker Family & others Sunday School: Kathy G, Harold/Cedrick

Financial Team: Natalia F, Financial Assistants

#### **Numbers From Last Week**

### Received God's Gifts - Services:

Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: 34; car: 0

Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: 56; car: 1

Wednesday at 11 & 7 – Inside: 65; car: 0

#### Studied God's Word - Classes:

Saturday at 3:00: 15

Sunday at 10:30: 44

Thursday at 10: 5

## **Weekly Financial Stewardship:**

Needed: 5,443

Received: 8,128



<u>Nice Walkers</u> (with and w/o wheels) – Through a donation, we have some available for free.

If you need one, ask Rand or Michael B to see what is available.

Remaining Advent Wednesday - Services 11 & 7; Free Meals 12 & 6

December 17 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christmas Eve – 4; Chr. Day 10 New Year's Eve 4; Day 10

# **Connect With Us**

**Website**: <u>BLC7500.com</u> **→ <u>YouTube</u>**: Benefit from the Bible **→ <u>Facebook</u>**: Bethlehem Parma **Regular Services: Saturdays** at 4:00; **Sundays** at 9:00 **Festivals:** Website > Important Links > Festivals

 Studies:
 Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30
 Address:
 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

 Church Office:
 Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00
 Kathy Green:
 Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915 Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org