

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
26418 Mountain Highway E, Spanaway, WA 98387

253.847.8801

bethany-l-c.org



1st Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023 10:00 AM

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December 3, 2023

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Welcome to Worship at Bethany!

Please fill out a blue communication card if you are: visiting; have prayer requests; have contact information changes or other information for the office. (Cards are available on the bookcase inside the sanctuary door or ask an usher.) Please place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have no congregational home in this area, we invite you to consider Bethany!

The “Kids’ Korner” is our current alternative to a nursery. This section of the narthex is set up for kids to stay quietly occupied under their parent’s (or another adult’s) supervision. There is a speaker to hear the service. Children aged 2 through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday school immediately following the Children’s Message – they will return in time for communion.

The Order of Service – The bulletin is all-inclusive. The readings and hymns are included in the order they occur in the service.

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Readings for 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8



WELCOME / QUIET TIME TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

You are invited to stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *The King of Glory*

W & P 136

Refrain
Em



The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

Em Bm⁷ Em



O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

G C Bm/D D⁷ G



1 Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;
 4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion;
 5 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Em CM⁷ G/B CM⁷ D⁷ G *Refrain*



He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of ag - es.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 in all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

Text: Willard F. Jabusch
 Music: Israeli traditional, arr. *Worship & Praise*
 Text © 1968; 1995 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications
 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

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

Lord, Have Mercy on Us

ELW Setting 7



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .*



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.*



*Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .*



*so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.*

continued on next page



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .*



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated.

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE(S) WITH CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.
Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* ELW 247, vs. 1



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*

ELW Setting 7

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to Mark in the 13th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“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. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

You may be seated.

SERMON

You are invited to stand as you are able for the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Lord, What a Morning*

ELW 438

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

You may be seated for the prayers.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*Each petition ends, Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with those around us. You may be seated.

OFFERING / ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to stand as you are able for the offertory hymn.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Wait for the Lord (sung three times)* **ELW 262**

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and includes a fermata over the final chord.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider,
**by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

ELW Setting 7



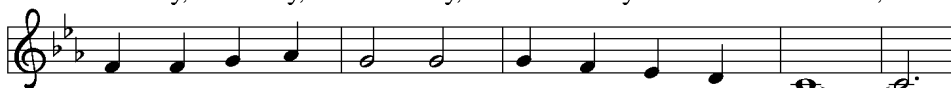
San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



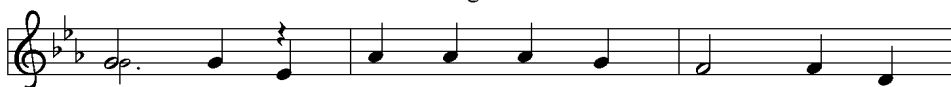
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



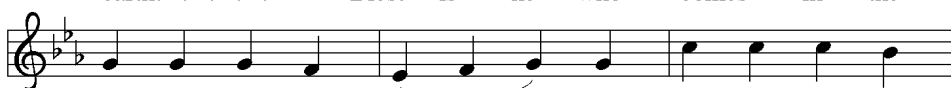
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
 earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
 name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
 Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION

Be seated until ushers direct you to the altar. All are welcome at Holy Communion. The Lord invites us to come. If you would like a gluten-free option, hold up your index finger when the pastor serves the bread. Red wine is available from the outer part of the communion tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray. Come and be filled with God's grace!

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 7



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
 have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
 have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
 O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
 grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

COMMUNION HYMN *Christ, Be Our Light*

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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You are invited to stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring's bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

Bethany Pastor:	Janeen Smith
Pastor's Email:	neenigal@gmail.com
Pastor's Mobile Phone:	253.209.5774 (text or call)
Administrative Assistants:	Kristi Fandrich, Wendy Smitherman, Andrew Vert
Administrative Email:	BethanyLCOffice@gmail.com
Pianist/Choir Director:	Claudia Simpson-Jones
Custodian:	Kirk Goddard
Office Hours This Week:	Mon. through Thurs.: 9:30 AM –1:30 PM
Office Phone:	253.847.8801
Church <u>Mailing</u> Address:	P O BOX 5024, SPANAWAY, WA 98387
Financial Secretary Email:	bethanyfinancesecretary@gmail.com
On the web:	www.bethany-l-c.org
On Facebook:	Bethany Lutheran Church Group

Serving at Worship Today

Altar Guild:	Lynda Duncan
Greeters & Ushers:	Vern Hallgren, Lew Samdal
Scripture Reader:	Paulette Van Cleve
Intercessory Prayers:	Gail Egbers
Sound Technician:	Jay Cash
Video Recorder:	Wendy Smitherman