



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Truth – Relevance – Inspiration

Saturday, November 27 at 4:00

Sunday, November 28 at 9:00

First Sunday in Advent – 2021



What is the Season of Advent? It begins the Church Year and includes the four Sundays *before Christmas*. The theme is “coming” and the color is “blue” for sky. As the Son of God came down from heaven to save us from our sins, so He will come again from the sky to forever bless those who receive Him as Savior and honor Him as Lord!

Today’s service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166).

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 (available on a table in our Narthex).
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** See a “yellow” card (Narthex) and the “Receive Prayer” section (end of folder).
- ✦ **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 Narthex.

✦ **Service Folder:** Get it on your smartphone: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder

✦ **Not Comfortable Inside:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

WELCOME:

L: He is coming!

C: Let us remain ready!

PRESERVICE CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for self-examination.

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

A: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.

⇒ **I have sinned against You in *thought, word, and deed*, by what I *have done* and by what I *have left undone*.**

⇒ **I have *not* loved You with my whole heart; I have *not* loved my neighbors as myself.**

⇒ **I justly deserve Your *present and eternal punishment*.**

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may *delight* in Your will and *walk* in Your ways to the *glory* of Your holy name. Amen.

L: The Almighty God in His mercy has *given His Son to die for us* and for His sake *forgives us all our sins*. As a called and ordained servant of **Christ, and by His authority**, I therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRELUDE: Oh, Come, Emmanuel W. Held

SERVICE OF THE WORD

↑ INVOCATION:

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

C: Amen.

HYMN: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Sunday Procession: *We focus on God's Word!*

See the words below / TLH 95 / LSB 332

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

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KYRIE: *Let Us Pray:*

L: O Lord, the Son of the Virgin Mary,

C: have mercy upon us.

L: O Christ, the Word of God made flesh,

C: have mercy upon us.

L: O Lord, God of God, yet fully man,

C: have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: *Let us pray.* Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be

rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; 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: Adoption!



OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 33:14-16 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1232 / Own Bible

The LORD is our righteousness!

The LORD is speaking through Jeremiah, about 600 years before the birth of Jesus.

May JESUS always be our GREATEST TREASURE!

¹⁴ 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

¹⁶ 'In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is *the name* by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.'

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: 25:1-10 ESV

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Prayer for Victory

- 1 To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.
- 3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

Prayer for Teaching

- 4 Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*,
teach me | your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*,
for you I wait all the | day long.

Appeal to God's Memory

- 6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love;*,
for they have been | from of old.
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;*,
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, | O LORD!

The Lord Instructs Sinners

- 8 Good and upright | is the LORD;*,
therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in | what is right,*
and teaches the humble | his way.
- 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,*
for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.

**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: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1834 / Own Bible
Please read on your own!

↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE (LSB 156):

See the words below / LSB 156

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: Luke 19:28-40 NAS-95

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1633 / Own Bible

Today we begin Series C of the three-year lectionary, so, for the next year, most of our gospel readings will be from Luke.

The theme of Advent is coming; the Son of God came into the world through the Virgin Mary, came into Jerusalem to pay our adoption price, and will come again to take His Bride home.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

²⁸ After [Jesus] had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'"

³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus on it.

³⁶ As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road. ³⁷ As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of

Olivet, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, ³⁸ shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." ⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

SERMON HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound

See the words below / TLH 66 / LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

SERMON: Galatians 4:4-5 NET



1. The Church Year: There are six seasons:

- a. Advent – Jesus is coming!
- b. Christmas – Jesus is born!
- c. Epiphany – Jesus is God!
- d. Lent – Jesus paid our penalty!
- e. Easter – Jesus is risen!
- f. Pentecost / Trinity – Through Jesus we live!

2. **Advent:**

- a. Advent means coming...
- b. Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth...
- c. Advent is a penitential season...
- d. The color for Advent is **blue**...

3. **7-Part Advent Sermon Series:**

- a. **Today: The Price of Adoption** (Galatians 4:4, 5)
- b. **12/1: The Messengers Are Promised** (Malachi 3:1)
- c. **12/4&5: God Has Prepared Our Ransom** (Luke 1:67-75)
- d. **12/8: The Sun of Righteousness Is Promised** (Malachi 4:1-3)
- e. **12/11&12: Good News: Sinners Can Be Saved** (Luke 1:76-79)
- f. **12/15: God Finally Speaks After a 400-Year Pause** (Luke 1:5a, 11-13)
- g. **12/18&19: We are All Traveling, But on What Road?** (Matthew. 11:7-11)

4. **Part 1 – The Price of Adoption:**

- a. What is adoption? Adoption is “legally taking another's child and bringing it up as one's own” (Oxford Languages).
- b. How much does adoption cost? The prices vary...
- c. Our separation from God: **Isaiah 59:2 NAS** “...your iniquities [sins] have made a separation between you and your God...”
- d. God's work to adopt us: Because of God's awesome love for us, *He was willing to pay the GREATEST PRICE...* The Bible says, “...when the time finally came, **God** [the Father] sent out **His Son** to be born of a woman and to be born

under law, in order to pay the price to free **[redeem]** those under law that we might be adopted as [God's] full-fledged sons” (Galatians 4:4-5 NET).

- i. Since we were helpless, *God acted!*
- ii. Since our debt is so HUGE, *only the very Son of God could pay our debt!*
- iii. Since we have failed to live without sin, *the Son of God put on flesh and lived a sinless life in our place!*
- iv. Since our sins deserve eternal punishment, *Jesus received our sins and our eternal punishment!*
- v. Since the HUGE adoption price has now been paid, God is inviting everyone to ♦*repent*, ♦*believe in Jesus*, and ♦*be members of His holy family forevermore!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Sin separated all people from God.
- **Relevance** – All are helpless to fix the separation.
- **Inspiration** – Jesus paid the full price for our adoption.

Get a copy of the Whole Sermon: Available on a table in the Narthex and the church website!

SERMON HYMN: *Hark the Glad Sound*

See the words below / TLH 66 / LSB 349

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

APOSTLES' CREED: *See back of either hymnal*

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

After Each Petition: L: LORD, in Your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer.

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. ↓

Please Pray for those in need; see today's insert.

OFFERTORY: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star
Phillip Nicolai "Wie Schon Leuchtet"

Offering: A plate is available in the center aisle. We express our trust and thanks when we tithe!

Thanks So Much: God is using your giving to support His work in and through this congregation!

The Flow of Our Giving: God gives to us in many ways – wages, pension, social security, inheritance, etc.; then He calls us to honor Him with a tithe.

Planned Support of God's Kingdom: For most, a time will come when someone else begins to handle our money and pay our bills; let us continue to honor our Great God by instructing that person to continue our faithful practice of Biblical giving.

Visitors: Please share your contact info → on the green attendance slip or → at secretary@blc7500.com

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

- ➔ **Regular Attenders:** Examine yourself below, agree, and receive.
- ➔ **Others:** Read the Lord's Supper section in our New Visitors brochure, agree, and receive **or** come forward to receive a spoken blessing.

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"...a man must examine himself" (1 Cor. 11:28 NAU).

1. I believe the Bible is God's Word!
2. I am baptized (*God clothed me in Christ and I still am*)!
3. I am sorry for my sins!
4. I believe in Jesus for eternal life!

5. I desire to live for Christ!
6. I believe the Lord's Supper is Jesus' very body and blood, along with the bread and wine, to assure me of God's forgiveness!

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION NOTES:

- ◆ **Receiving at your pew:** Please inform an usher.
- ◆ **Alcohol-Removed Wine:** Center of each tray.

SATURDAY DISTRIBUTION NOTES:

- ◆ Gather at the altar; receive; go in peace.
- ◆ Main dismissal after everyone has returned.

SUNDAY DISTRIBUTION NOTES:

- ◆ **First table on each side:**
 - Immediately after the offertory, come forward to the altar railing.
 - Receive the Supper; go in peace.
 - Return via the side aisle.
- ◆ **Other tables on each side:**
 - Wait in the center aisle until the first table has left the railing.
 - Then immediately gather at the altar railing.
 - Receive the Supper; go in peace.
 - Return via the side aisle.

↑ PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: *Let Us Pray*

L: Dear Father, in the beginning You created all things by the Word, who is Your Son; then, *in the fullness of time*, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Now, *with repentant hearts*, as we receive the body He gave – along with the bread, and the blood He shed – along with the wine, help us to rejoice in Your love and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER: *See back of either hymnal*

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: Our Father who art in heaven...

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *Spoken on the evening before He finished His saving work!*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

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

C: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI: *Lamb of God*

See the words below / LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; grant - - - us peace.

Saturday: Please come forward now!

Sunday: *See the Sunday Distribution Notes!*

Sunday ➔ **DURING DISTRIBUTION:**

Oh, Come Emmanuel!

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

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

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, we give You thanks for assuring us that we are forgiven through *the Promised Christ*, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

Savior of the Nations, Come

See the words below / TLH 95 / LSB 332

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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 look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: **Amen.** ↓

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

W. Held

ADVENT

- ♦ Series: The Child of Promise & Fulfillment
- ♦ Wed Morn: Service 11; Free Meal 11:45
- ♦ Wed Eve: Free Meal 6:00; Service 7:00

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS

- ♦ Living the Lutheran Lectionary: 10:00
- ♦ Attend: Inside or Zoom

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- ♦ Bible Class: 3:00 (Inside or Zoom)
- ♦ Divine Service: 4:00 (Inside or Parking Lot)

SUNDAYS – After Service Blessings

- ♦ Receive Prayer: See a Stephen Minister: Norma S, Bill S, Jerry H, Alan C, or Nancy B
- ♦ Refreshments (10:15): Join us down the hall
- ♦ Bible Class and Sunday School (10:30)

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 11/27 & 11/28

Altar Guild: Don & Carol D

Saturday: Music: Kathy G; Usher: Alan B

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team: Harold W

Ushers: Rand S, Nevin S

Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E

Sunday School: Marci S, Cedrick H

Financial Team: Natalia F, Ken H

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 12/4 & 12/5

Altar Guild: Heather

Saturday: Music: Kathy G; Usher: Matt K

Sunday: Organist: Gayle P

Pastor Team: Matthias

Ushers: Terry T, Larry H, Klaus K

Refreshments: Doris C, Miriam E

Sunday School: Heather H, Jerry H

Financial Team: Natalia F, Tricia W

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION – Thanks!

- Needed Each Week (budget): **4,684**
- Received Last Week (actual): **6,482**
- Budget Versus Giving (YTD): **+6,843**
- Spending Versus Giving (YTD): **+670**

2021 ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Saturdays and Sundays and Wednesdays



Wednesdays

Free Meals at 12 & 6

Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** www.blc7500.com ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Church Office: Wed. & Thu. – 9:30 to 4; Sat., 2 to 6

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

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

Tricia Wise: ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com; 440-884-0430

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org