

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016



Isaiah Guides Us From Advent Through Epiphany

Week 3:

GOD'S KINGDOM GIVES US STRENGTH

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OPENING HYMN — #7—*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit



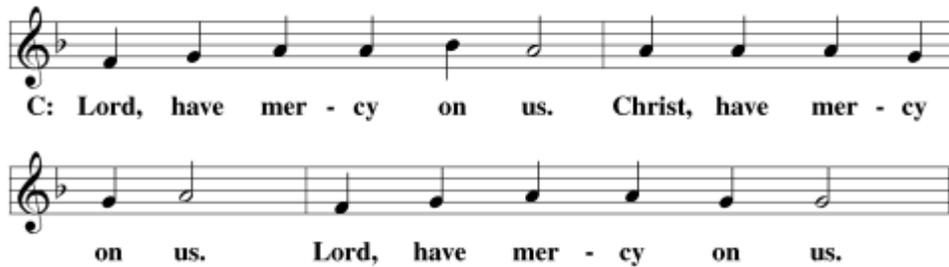
CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And al - so with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray:

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10 (EHV)

¹ The wilderness and the dry land will be glad. The desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose. ² It will blossom abundantly, and there will be great joy and singing. Lebanon's glory will be given to it, it will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make feeble knees firm. ⁴**Tell those who have a fearful heart, "Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance, with God's own retribution he will come and save you."**

⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. ⁶The lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. Grass, reeds, and rushes will be in the haunts where the jackals once lay. ⁸A highway will be there, a road, and it will be called The Holy Way. The unclean will not walk there. It will be for those who walk in that Way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any ravenous animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but the redeemed will walk there.

¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return, they will come singing to Zion, and everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain happiness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 146



Refrain

Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*

in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*

the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,*

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast*

and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.*

He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-11 (EHV)

⁷ Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. ⁸ You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹ See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11 (EHV)



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

² While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?"

⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me."

⁷ As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY — #14—*Arise, O Christian People*

SERMON (*sermon text Isaiah 35:3,4*)

"There's No Need To Be Weak Kneed"

STAND

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

RECEPTION OF SANDY WELLNER INTO THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP OF BETHANY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

(BE SEATED)

HYMN — #93—*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



HYMN— #449—*Children of the Heavenly Father*

News And Notes—Bethany Lutheran Church

WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. Pastor, the ushers, and all members of our Bethany family stand ready to serve you. May the Lord bless your worship!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

OPEN FORUM AFTER WORSHIP TODAY:

After worship today, we will be having our second open forum meeting after worship to give all members of Bethany opportunity to receive updates and provide feedback regarding future ministry plans at Bethany. Based on the discussion from our November Open Forum, we anticipate wrapping up the discussion of the preschool and, if possible, spend some times discussing future facilities and ministry ideas. All Bethany members are encouraged to stay after worship for the discussion as this will give valuable feedback to the council and voters of Bethany

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP STARTS THIS WEDNESDAY — 7:00 PM — *Why Was Jesus Born?*

Wednesday, 12/14 — John 10:10,11 — *To Give Us Life Through His Death* (Pastor Kluender)

Wednesday, 12/21 — John 18:37 — *To Testify To the Truth* (Pastor Bauer)

THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th — BETHANY CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Next Saturday, December 17th, Bethany will be holding its annual Christmas party at Bethany. All members of Bethany are encouraged to attend, have some fun, and encourage one another! Please see information and an invitation which has been placed in your mailbox in the narthex if you have not already seen it. THANKS! :)

BETHANY CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Due to the anticipated installation of carpeting at Bethany this week, we are delaying decoration of Bethany's sanctuary until the Saturday, December 17th Christmas party. Many hands make light (and merry) work, so please plan to attend the party and help us beautify our worship space for Christmas week and Epiphany.

TWO WEEK PAUSE IN TUESDAY AND SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Due to our extra worship services in the coming weeks, as well as to accommodate our rehearsal for the December 18th worship service, there will be no Sunday Bible study today or next Sunday (12/11 and 12/18) and no Tuesday evening Bible study on 12/13 and 12/20. Bible studies will resume as normal after Christmas. Thank you!

LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP

In Sunday's worship, 44 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God and 32 people took communion.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY:

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<u>No Bible Study</u>	7:00p Midweek Advent Worship Service (Kluender) Ushers: B	7:00p Council Meeting Happy Birthday Barb Kidder!	Happy Birthday Logan Busch!	6:00p Bethany Christmas Party and church Christmas decoration	9:00a Rehearsal for Children's/Family Worship Service 10:30a Worship
CARPET INSTALLED-	----->	----->	----->	----->		

Serving next Sunday: Altar: Kluender; Greeter: Kurth; Ushers: Team A