

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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The First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

Teaching Points

Advent The first season of the church year, Advent serves to prepare us for the coming celebration of Christ's birth. The word comes from the Latin, *advenire*, which means "to come." Advent themes include not only Christ's coming at Bethlehem but also his coming now in Word and Sacrament and his final coming in glory.

From the Small Catechism

The Sacrament of the Altar, Part 2

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed _____ for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and _____.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the _____ written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever _____ these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine _____ training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has _____ in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or _____ them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Divine Service III

Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

LSB 516

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Stand

Service of the Word

Psalm 122 (LSB 122) (prayed responsively by whole verse)

Kyrie (p.186)

Collect of the Day

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.

P Let us pray.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1–5*

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle: *Romans 13:8–14*

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia (p.190)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Sit

Office hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

Sermon

Stand

Offertory (p.192)

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord's Prayer (p.196) (spoken)

The Words of Institution (p.197)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Sit

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621

Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 672

How Great Thou Art

LSB 801

Stand

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

Thanksgiving (p. 200)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (p. 201)

Benediction (p.202)

Hymn: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns LSB 348

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

There are Advent Devotion booklets available, please take one or
there are multiple ways to read and listen to reflections visit the
website at www.higherthings.org to read, listen to, or subscribe
to Reflections each day.

This Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Wed. Nov. 30	STJ:	1:30pm Advent Service
	BETH:	6:00pm Confirmation
	Beth:	7:00pm Advent Service
Sun. Dec. 4th	BETH :	8:00am: Divine Service w/HC
		9:15 Bible Study
	STJ:	10:30am: Divine Service /HC
		11:45am Bible Study
Wed. Dec. 7th.	STJ:	1:30pm Advent Service
	BETH:	6:00pm Confirmation
	Beth:	7:00pm Advent Service

Bethlehem is still in need of help for the Soup Supper and Live Nativity on December 10th. A Sign up sheets for all jobs are posted on the bulletin board, please sign up to help during the week and or on the weekend.

Bethlehem Sunday School Children's Christmas Service, entitled "To Us A Child Is Born", will be held **Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the 8am Service**. After the children's service, a breakfast will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bethlehem Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.

Bethlehem Acolyte and Greeter Schedule for November

Month/Date	Acolyte	Greeter
Dec. 4th	Madalynn John	Adam & Marya Viegut
Dec. 11th	Leighton Kilty	Bruce, Brenda Weiler, April, Amber

If you are unable to do your duty for the week you are scheduled, please find an alternate to fill in for you or switch dates with

Bethlehem Christmas Poinsettias: There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for anyone who would like to purchase a poinsettia to help beautify the church for the Christmas season. The cost is **\$12.00**. Please pay Marlene Schreiber when ordering and make checks payable to Abbotsford School District.

St. John Sunday School: Sunday morning at 9:15 on Nov, 27, Dec. 6, 11, and 18 we will be practicing to give the Christmas message

to our congregation, family, friends and neighbors. The Children's presentation will be Dec. 18th at 6:00 P.M.
Note: There will be no Sunday School on Dec 25 and Jan 1, 2023 We will have class again on Jan 8, 2023.

St. John Sunday School will again be doing a Christ- Giving Tree this year to help defray the cost of a hospital bed for Greta Marshall [Elizabeth's daughter] The tree will have ornaments on with donations marked. The tree will be up in Advent and through the Christmas season.