Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA

We reflect Christ in message and actions!

76 W. Crystal Lake Avenue, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
www.bethanylc.com | frontdesk@bethanylc.com | 815.459.2690
Instagram: @bethanylutherancrystallake | Facebook: @bethanylutherancl

December 15, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

"Hope": Spirit of the Lord upon Me

Welcome to Bethany Lutheran Church

We welcome you just as you are, thank you for joining us this morning for worship, and hope that you find the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethany, want to get involved, or just have questions, please feel free to contact any of the Pastors or Staff listed below.

Introduction to our season's theme | During Advent and Christmas, we focus on the hope that grounds us in all seasons of life. From Daniel's trust in the lions' den to Mary's courageous "yes" to the angel, we see hope woven through God's promise of deliverance. Whether in Isaiah's prophetic visions or in the joy of Simeon and Anna seeing the infant Jesus, we're reminded that true hope is found in God's faithfulness, fulfilled in Christ's birth, offering peace and joy to the world.

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The church office is open on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor
The Rev. Catherine Daharsh (she/her)

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Katie Mueller

Director of Worship & Music
Dr. Aaron Knodle (he/him)

Director of Children & Family Ministry
Sashire Ayares (she/her)

Director of Communication & Events
Liz Quinn (she/her)

Office Administrator
Jody McKesson (she/her)

Financial Administrator
Jennifer Miller

Property Manager
Jerry Larsen

AV Producer
Jake Atkinson

Collaborative Pianist
Dr. Ayesha Casie Chetty (she/her)

Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran Church is located in Crystal Lake on the original and ancestral homelands of the Peoria, Bodwéwadmi (Potawatomi), Myaami, (Miami), Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux), Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Prelude | Meditation ON "Es ist ein Ros" | arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Howard Helvey resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is active as a composer, arranger, and pianist, and serves as organist and choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church. He is also co-founder (2013) and conductor of the Cincinnati Fusion Ensemble, a professional chamber choir. Additionally, in 2016 he became Editor of the music publishing imprint, H.W. Gray. With cognate studies in conducting, voice, organ, and poetry, Howard holds a Bachelor of Music degree in composition from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Music degree in composition and piano performance from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music.

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

Gathering Hymn | Arise, Your Light Has Come! | #314

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
All: **And also with you**.

Advent Wreath Lighting Litany: The Hope of God-With-Us

One: The Hope of God-With-Us does not promise ease, nor offer certainty, nor guarantee an end we can see.
All: **Hope cannot be grasped or controlled.**

One: The Hope of God-With-Us moves boldly, taking risks, unfolding in mystery.
All: **Hope stirs us awake, drawing us beyond what we know.**

One: Hope rises in shadows, surprising us like shooting stars in the night sky.
All: **Hope calls us to courage and fills us with longing.**

The Advent candle is lit.

One: Prepare the way! Hope flows among us, alive and unstoppable.
All: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!**

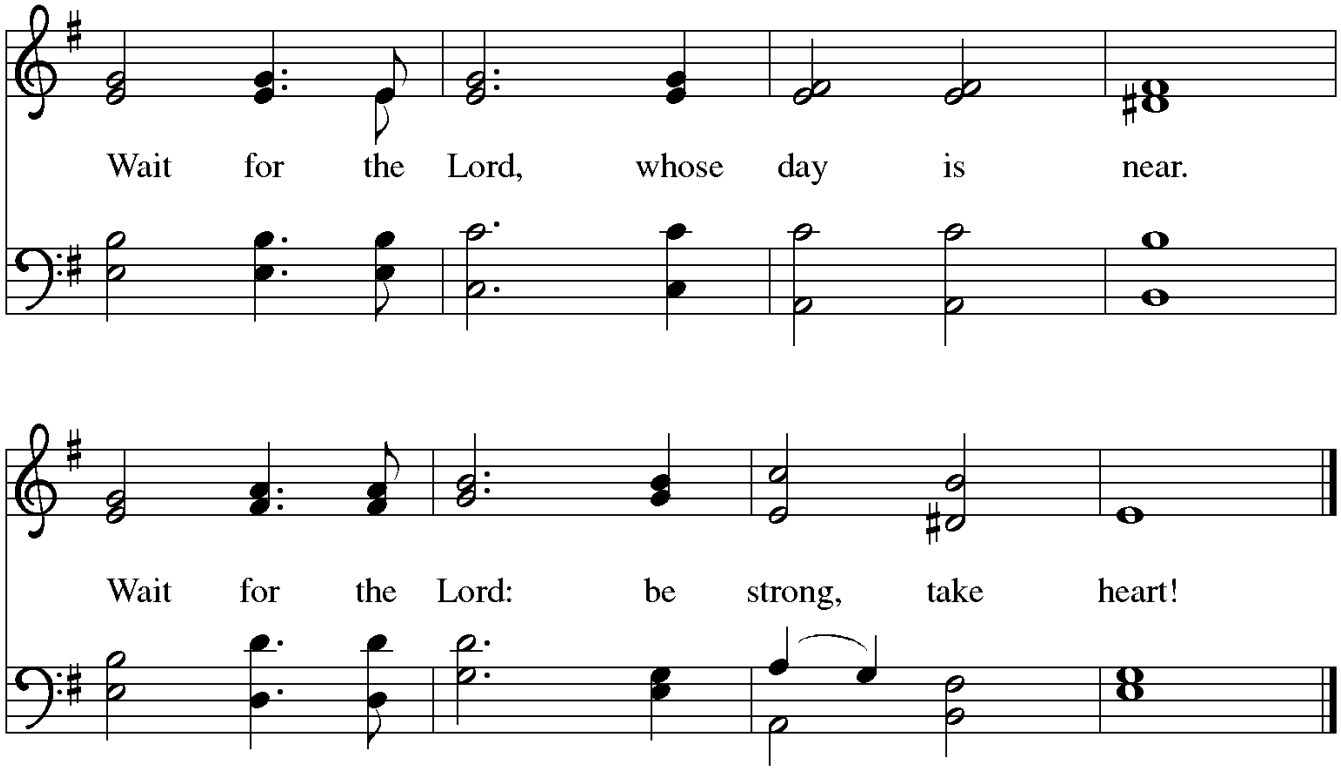
Prayer of the Day

One: Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ, our salvation.
All: **Amen**.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2–6 | Refrain: “Wait for the Lord”



One: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

All: **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

One: And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

All: **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

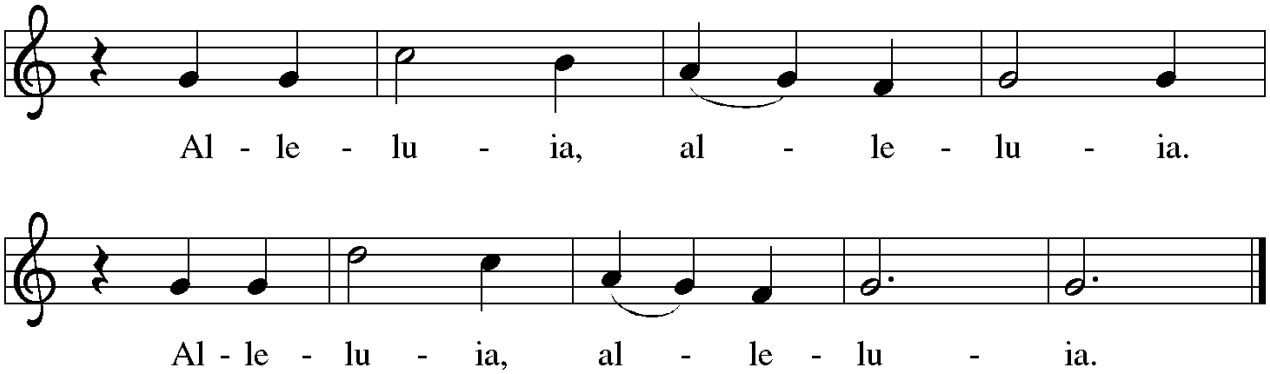
One: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (**Repeat Refrain**)

Reading | Isaiah 61:1–11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks; foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines, but you shall be called priests of the Lord; you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

One: Word of God, Word of Life.
All: **Thanks be to God**.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel | Luke 4:16–21

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Sunday School Christmas Program | “Christmas Gone Worng”

Scene 1 | Mary

Scene 2 | Joseph

Scene 3 | The Shepherds

Scene 4 | The Wise People

Scene 5 | Harold

Cast & Crew (in order of appearance)

Tableau artists | Dylan Carpenter, Owen Cysewski, Conor Houghton, Emmie Mepham, Aaron Smith

MC | Leo Salvaggio

Reader | Ian Buxton

Mary | Brynn Buxton

Joseph | Samuel Heisler

Angels | Hannah Bailey, Geneva Beer, Rosalie Beer, Cameron Boncosky, Mia Burkle, Ivy Cysewski, Finn Houghton, Easton Mepham, Lucy Nicholas, Walt Nicholas, Niko Salvaggio, Shayla Stanton, Everly Szatkowski

Shepherd 1 | Ellabelle Stanton
Shepherd 2 | Leah Stanton
Shepherd 3 | Annabelle Stanton

Wise Person 1 | Eloise Burkle
Wise Person 2 | Emmersyn Heisler
Wise Person 3 | Casey Picard

Harold | Adelynn Szatkowski

Stagehand | Jaxson Szatkowski

Director | Sashire Ayares

Special Thanks | Jake Atkinson, Jeremy Ayares, Ian Buxton, Angela Kerrigan, Aaron Knodle, Claire Miller, Hailey Miller, Tammy Nobbe, Travis Picard, Ellie Sprague, Lucy Thome, Liz Quinn

To all the **students** and **parents** who support this program with their time and talent, thank you!

Apostles’ Creed (spoken in unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **receive our prayer**.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

Thank you for your generous gift to support the many ministries of Bethany!

To make an online donation, please scan this QR code with your phone's camera.

Online: https://www.bethanylc.com/pages/give

Offering Music | This is the Truth | arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The Bethany Choir | Aaron Knodle, organ | Andy McKay, conductor

Offering Prayer

One: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: **And also with you**.

The Great Thanksgiving

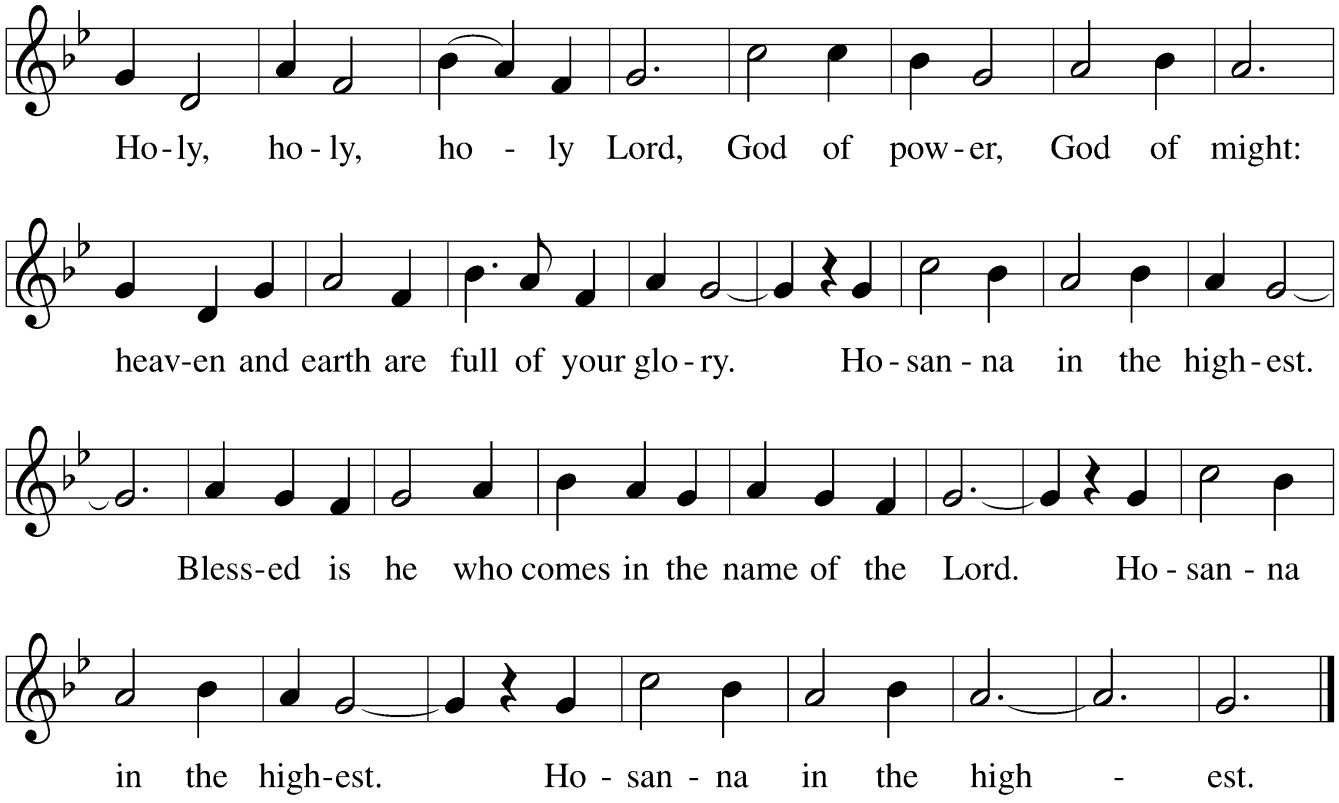
Dialogue

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you**.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord**.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **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, Holy, Holy

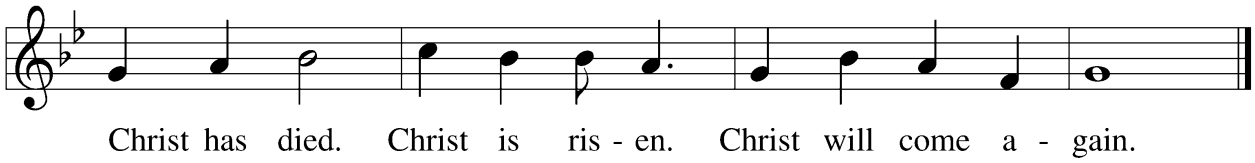


Thanksgiving at the Table

One: 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:

All are invited to sing



One: 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.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus**.

One: 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.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit**.

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

All are invited to sing

The Lord's Prayer (spoken in unison)

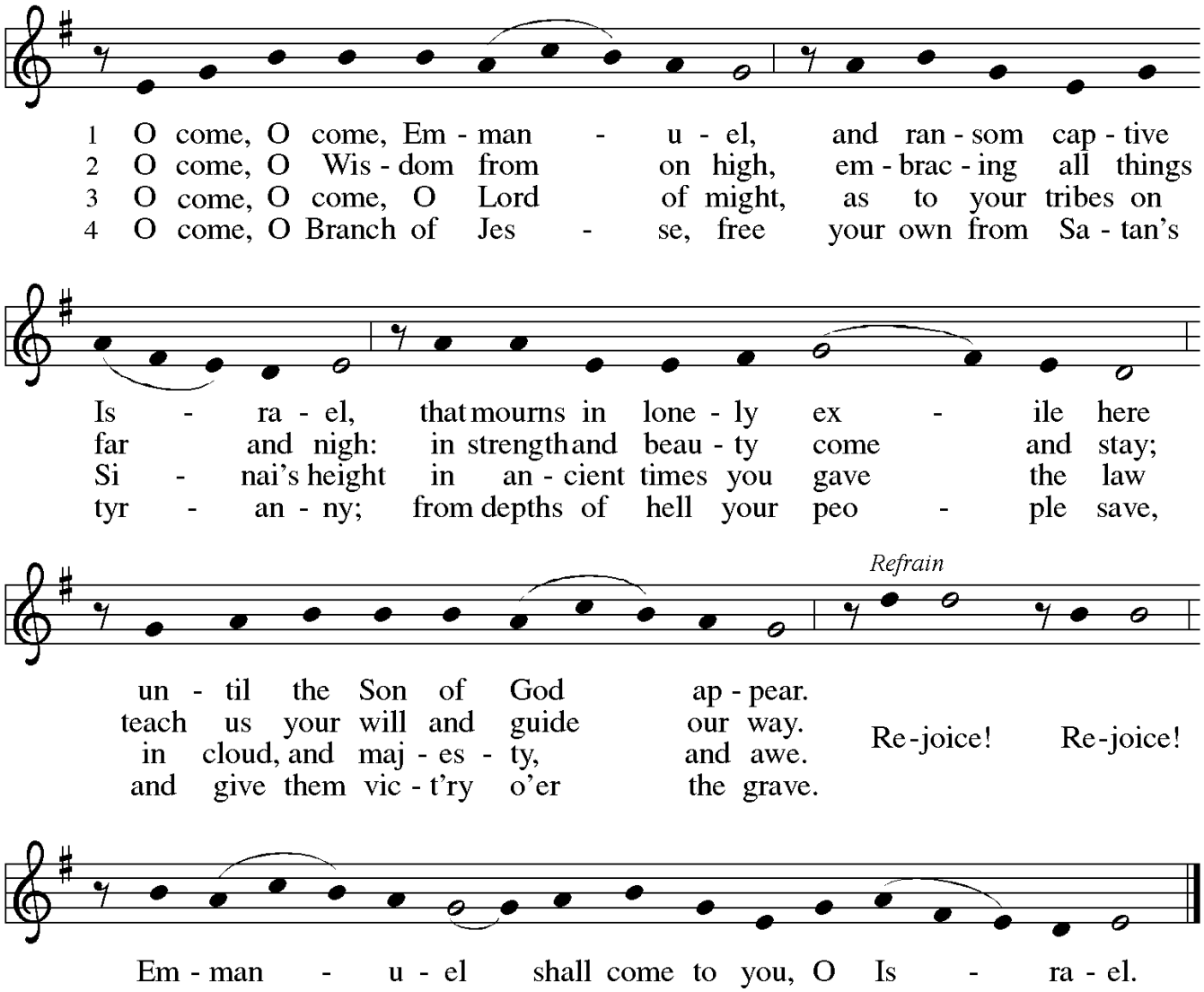
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

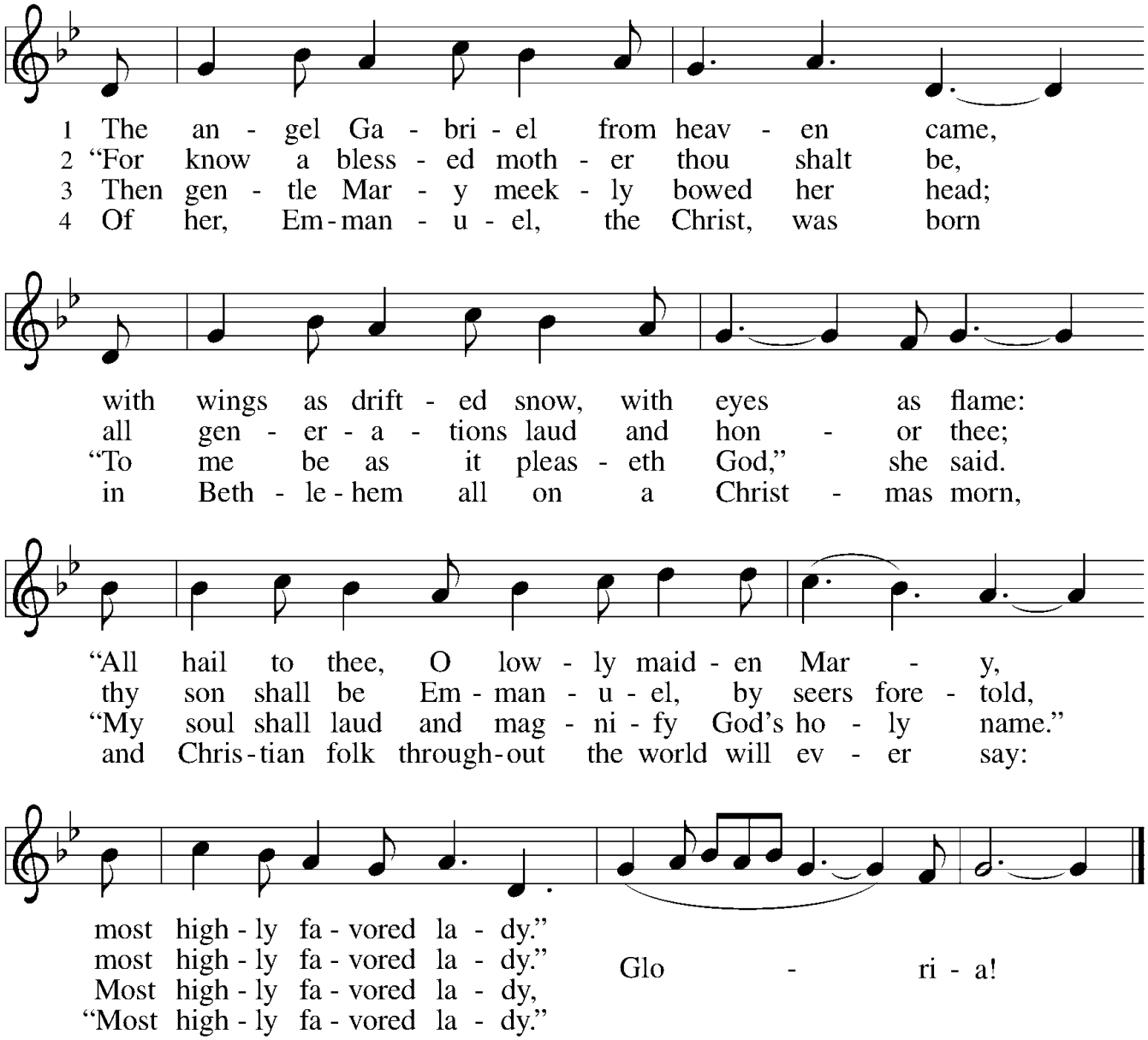
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Bethany Lutheran Church has an open communion policy. All are welcome, no exceptions.

Communion Hymn | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1–4) | #257



Communion Hymn | The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came | #265



Post Communion Blessing

One: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen**.

Prayer after Communion

One: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

All: **Amen**.

THE SENDING

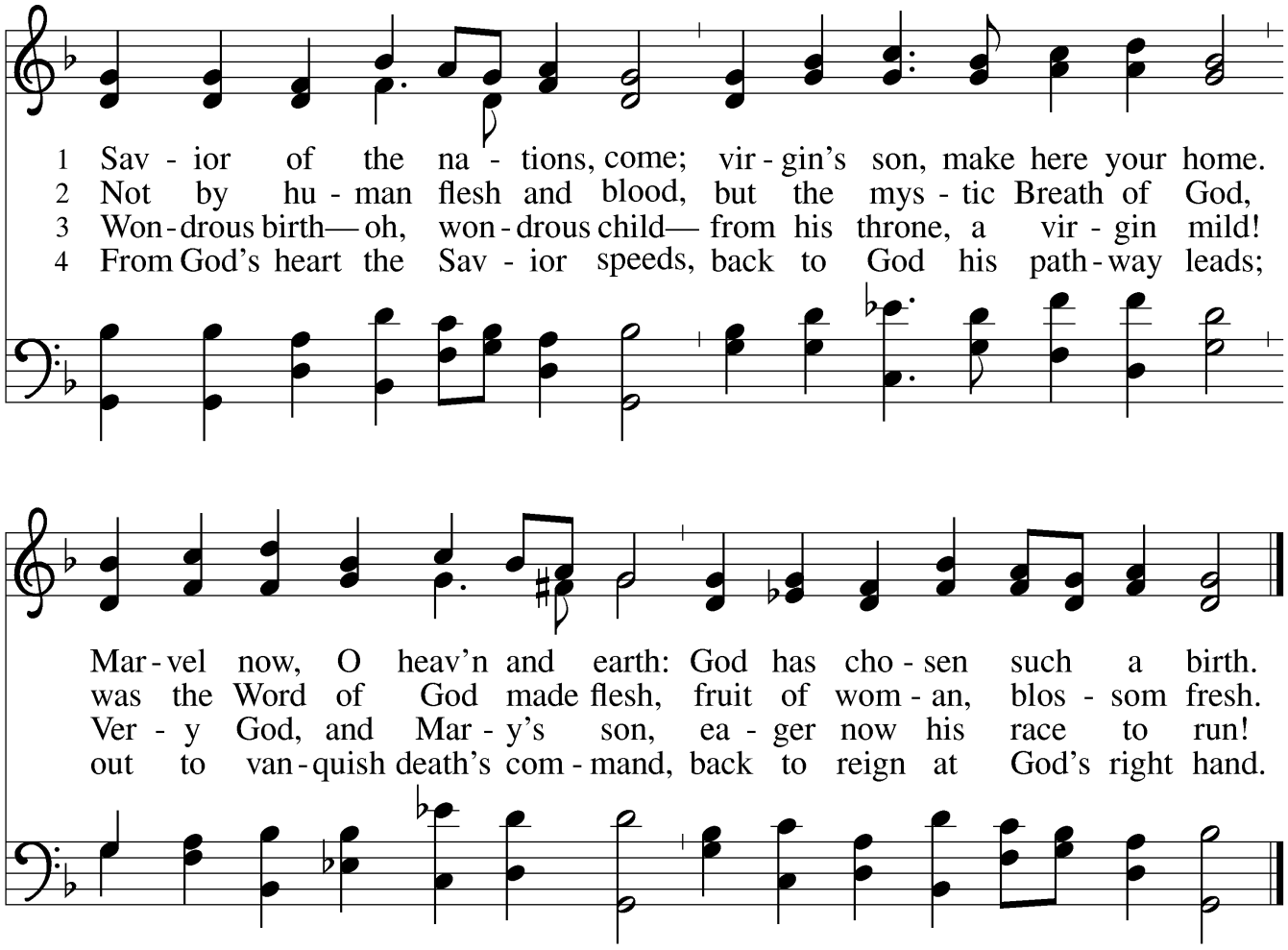
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

One: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ☩ bless and keep you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn | Savior of the Nations, Come (stanzas 1–4) | #263



Dismissal

One: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude | Flourish on an English Carol | arr. Howard Helvey

Community Announcements

Today

Sunday School Program – 9:00 service

- "Christmas Gone Worng" – a retelling of the timeless story of Jesus' birth – with just a few imperfections and goof ups!

Plugged In Middle School & High School

- After 10:30 worship, we will meet in Luther Hall for a Christmas Party

Tamale Making for Las Posadas

- Today at 10:30 in Luther Hall

¡Navidad! – 3:00-5:00 p.m.

- Hosted by Neighbors McHenry County
- Featuring holiday traditions of Venezuela
- Held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 210 McHenry Avenue, Crystal Lake
- Please sign up on the tall bulletin insert to attend

This Week

Husmann Family Christmas Project

- Gift wrapping on Monday, December 16, at 9:00 a.m. in Luther Hall

Las Posadas Celebration – Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.

- Members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in West Chicago will provide musical leadership
- Pastor Rafael Malpica Padilla will preach
- Bilingual service in both English and Spanish
- Food, fellowship, and a piñata after the service!
- Sign-up on the tall bulletin insert to attend or help out
- **No** Pizza, Bethany Kids, or Confirmation
- Bethany Choir @ 6:00pm

Coming up

Installation Service for Pastor Katie – next Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m.

- One (1) service at 9:00 a.m.
- Reception for Pastor Katie after the service

Christmas Eve Services – Tuesday, December 24

- Family Interactive Service @ 4:00 p.m.
- Traditional Christmas Worship @ 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
    - All services include Holy Communion and candle lighting

We are in urgent need for ushers at all Christmas Eve Services (4, 7, & 10 p.m.).

- If you can help out, please sign-up on the tall bulletin insert.

We will be collecting hats and gloves for our Blessing Box area for people who are in need. You can drop off your donations in Luther Hall in the basket provided.

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We remember the following in prayer:

Continued Care
Hilda Camacho
Ray Rudden
Diane Newbold
Jim Connelly
Cindy Denny
Bonnie Drew
Larry Reimer
Gene Bengston
Bill Odean

General Health & Wellness
Betty Wilson
Dick Wildey
Dawn McKay
Lois Kohl
John Engebretson
Karen Kugelman
Shelia Dunfee

Grieving

Missionaries
Daudi Msseemma
Helen Rios Carillo
Michael Busbey

Recovering
Dick Kloepfer
Jim Zoellick
Corrine Zoellick
Joe Hewins
Susan Zimmerman
Kathy Sukel
Kathy Mayner
Addie Calanca

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assisting Minister
Sue Dobbe-Leahy

AV Support
9:00: Jim Bradshaw; Liz Quinn; Stella Thome
10:30: Jake Atkinson; Dan Nobbe

Barista
Mary Ann Landon

Communion Server
9:00: Mike Bailey
10:30: Catherine Peterson

Council Host
9:00: Stacie Freeman
10:30: Catherine Peterson

Musical Leadership
The Bethany Choir

Nursery Attendant:
Annika Martinez

Reader
9:00: Clara Solak
10:30: TBD

Sunday Snacks
Larry Kohn; Nicky Strahl; Joy Kluge

Ushers
9:00: Roger Wolfe; Tom Leahy
10:30: Tom Daharsh

This week at Bethany:

Sunday, December 15
9:00am – Worship
9:00am – Sunday School Christmas Program
10:00am – Fellowship
10:30am – Worship
10:30am – Plugged In Middle School & High School
10:30am – Tamale Making
3:00pm – Navidad Celebration at St. Mary's

Monday, December 16
9:00am - Good Samaritan
4:30–8:30pm – Scout Meetings

Tuesday, December 17
5:30–9:00pm – Scout Meetings
7:00pm – Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 18
10:00am – Journey Bible Study
6:00pm – Bethany Choir
7:00pm – Las Posadas Celebration

Thursday, December 19
9:00am – Piecers
6:30pm – Scout Meeting
7:00pm – Bell Canto Ringers

Friday, December 20
9:00am – Good Samaritan
11:00am – Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, December 21
9:00am – CODA
9:00am – Ukrainian School

Sunday, December 22
9:00am – Worship
9:00am – Installation of Pr. Katie
10:00am – Reception for Pr. Katie

Daily Readings for the Week of December 15

Sunday, 12/15 | Isaiah 61:1-11
Monday, 12/16 | Leviticus 25:8-12
Tuesday, 12/17| Genesis 1:1-5
Wednesday, 12/18| Isaiah 42:1-9
Thursday, 12/19| Zechariah 9:9-17
Friday, 12/20 | Luke 1:5-24
Saturday, 11/21 | Luke 1:57-80

For more detail about the readings, please see your weekly issue of Sundays@Six.