The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

10:00 Casual Blended Service



Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org



Sock Drive



Throughout the month of December Bethany will be collecting NEW toddler's and children's socks for Wholly Kicks, a local non-profit that mentors and builds relationships by 'walking with' individuals experiencing economic disparity. We'll have collection boxes at both the north and south entrances of the church for these donations.



Thank you for your generosity!





Birthday Party for Jesus!

On Wednesday, **December 9th from 5:15-7:00pm** we will hold our Annual Birthday Party for Jesus celebration. We will have dinner from 5:15-6 pm and our activities will be from 6-7 pm. There will be Birthday cake, Trivia, and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long.



All ages are invited to join in !

P.S. - Don't forget to bring socks for our ongoing sock drive!



New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center for a welcome to Bethany Gift.

+ We Prepare Our Hearts +

Prelude Prelude on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Paul Fey

Intrada on "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

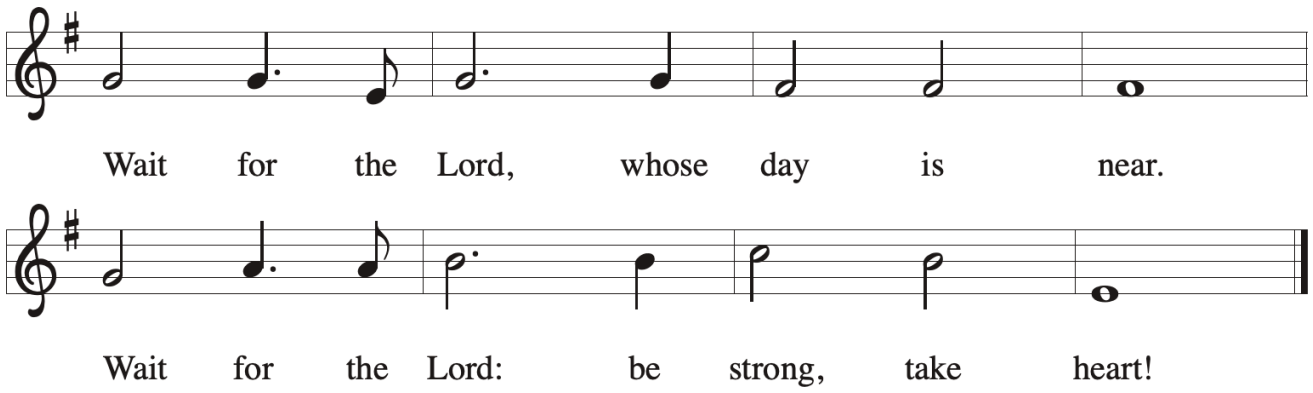
Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center after worship for a free gift.

To fill out your digital connection card, go to: **www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect**.

Song of Praise Wait for the Lord (sing twice) ELW 262



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Lighting the Advent Wreath and Litany

Micah: I am the prophet Micah, and God has given me a great vision, an oracle of unexpected Good News! In the quiet town of Bethlehem, the unassuming town of David, a ruler shall emerge among you, a shepherd-king to guide his flock.

Congregation: **From Bethlehem, the city of ancient hope, shall come a leader, born of humility.**

Micah: With courage born of love, not power, He shall be your peace in troubled times, a shepherd standing firm amidst the chaos, His greatness extending to the ends of the earth.

Congregation: **In Bethlehem, the cradle of our faith, shall rise a leader, steadfast and just.**

Micah: As we light this candle in anticipation, remember the promise of Bethlehem, where hope was born in the humblest of places. Walk forward in the light of that promise.

Congregation**: As we light this candle, we embrace the light, a beacon in the darkness, bringing light and peace to our wandering hearts.**

Opening Song

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

1. Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!
   Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
2. No more crying there...
3. No more dying there...
4. Soon and very soon...

Children's Sermon

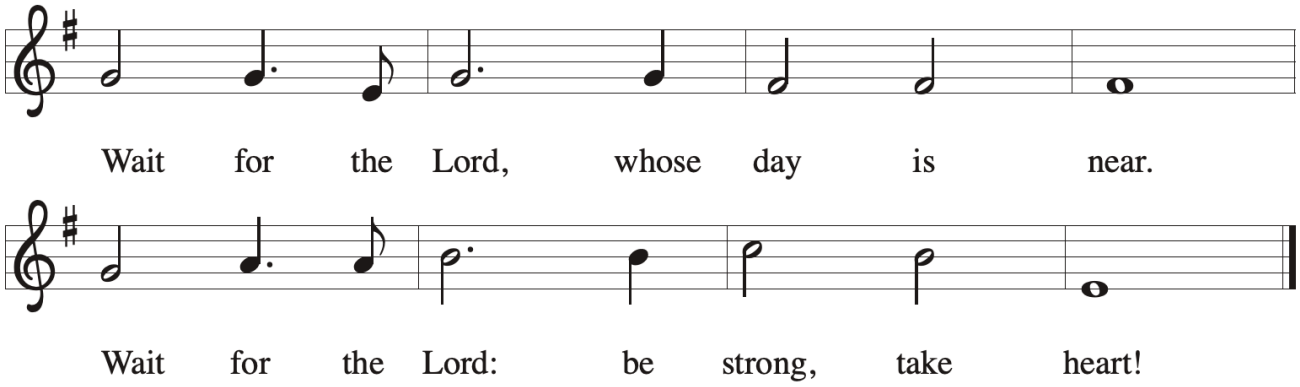
Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Worship

Prepare to Hear God's Word

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262



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+ We Encounter God's Word +

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,
5 and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said: 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the 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. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven 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. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It 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. 35 Therefore, 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, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon

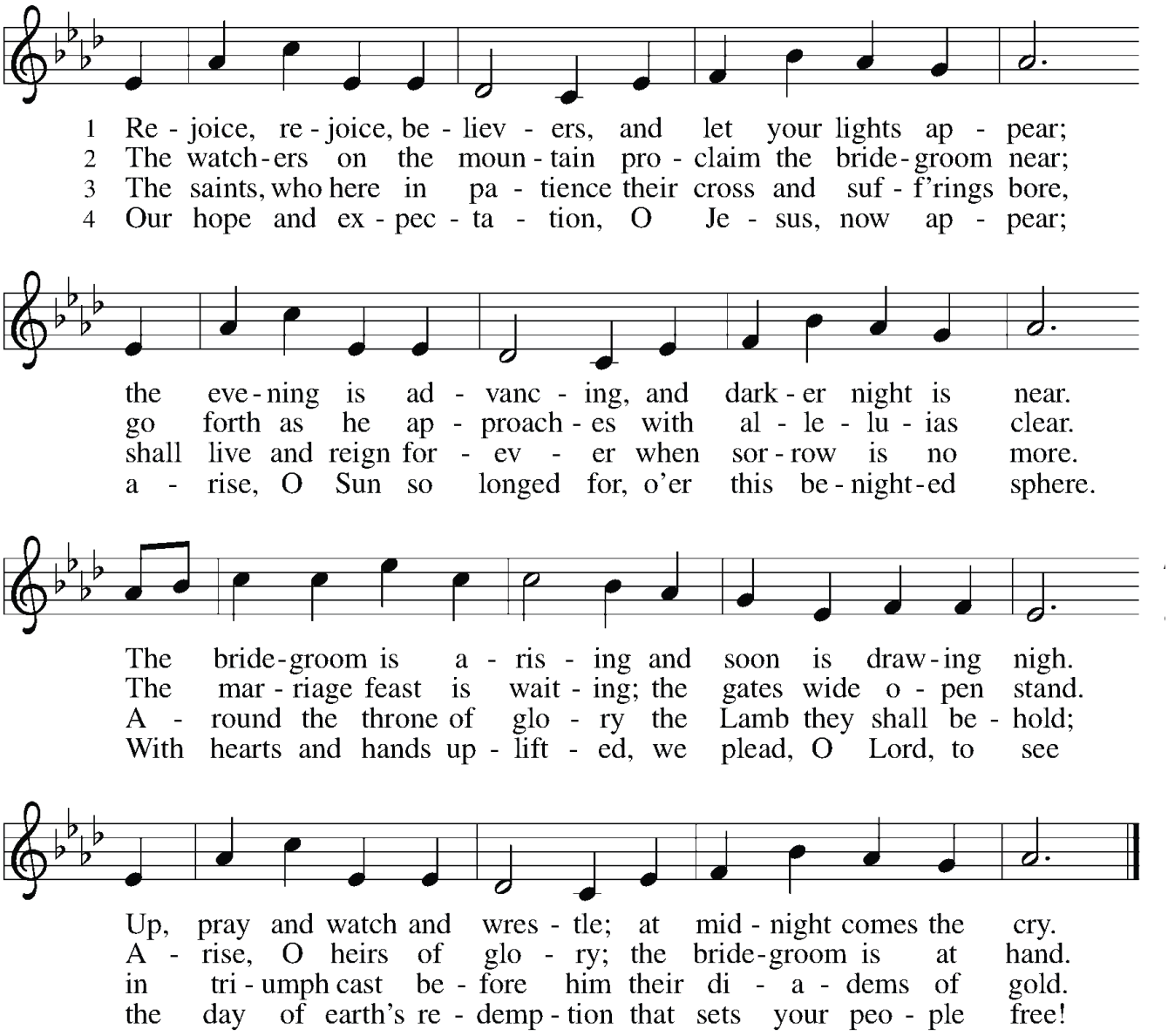
Pastor Nate Preisinger

Sermon Notes

Song of the Day

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



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

A Statement of Our Faith

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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 the People

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

+ We Worship God With Our Offerings +

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Gary Sandberg

- **Advent Fest**

The Offering

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header at: **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash -** Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- Unlock your phone, hold near the **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the plate as it is passed

Musical Offering And All on Earth Rejoiced Sandra R. Wagner

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ The Community Meal +

Confession and Forgiveness Pastor Nate Preisinger

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

We have neglected to call on your name, O God; we have not remembered your ways.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who clothes you with garments of salvation.

We have forgotten God's hold on us. We struggle as we attempt to forge our own path, our own way.

God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In God's consuming love, and in the gift of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice in the Lord!

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical translation)

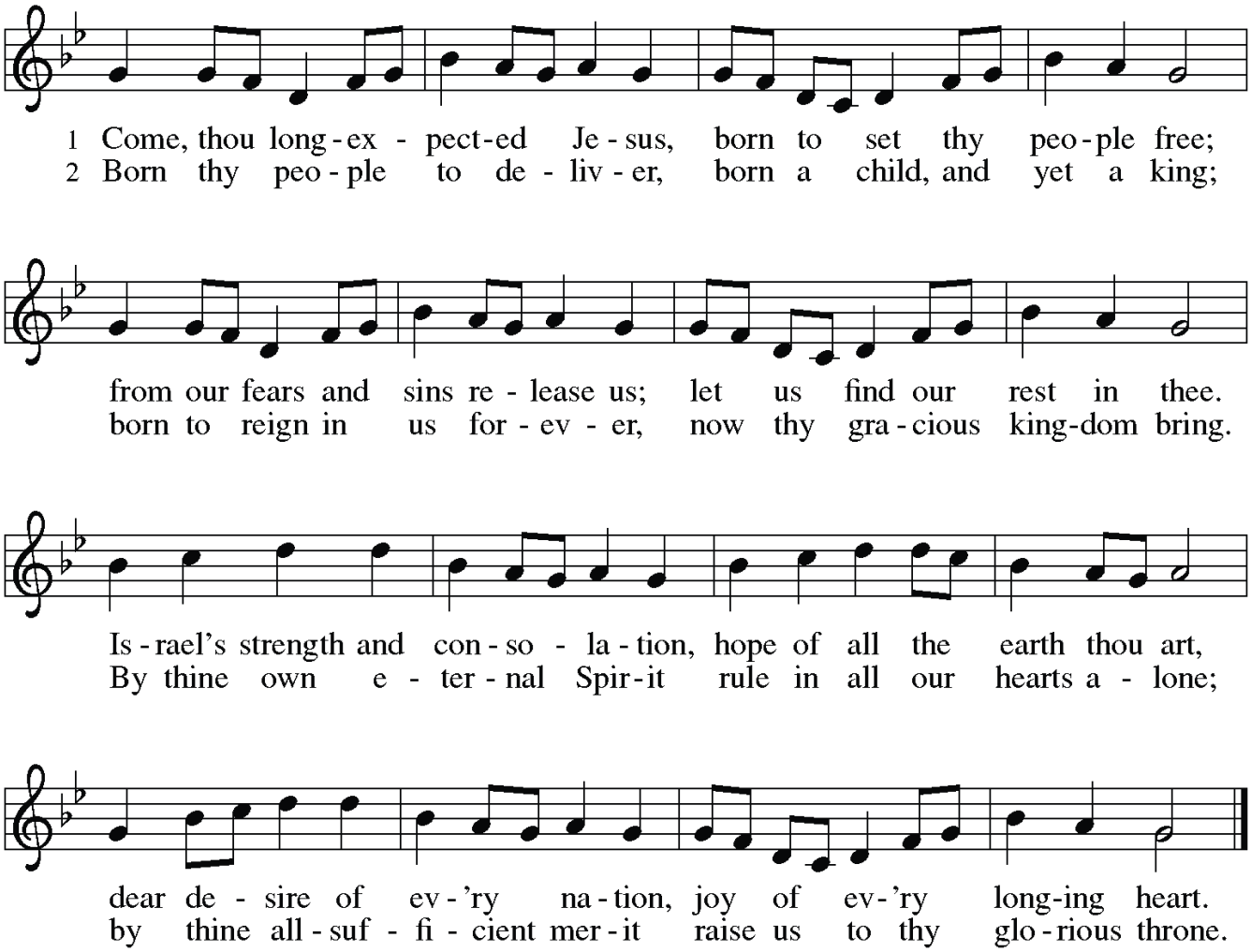
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Music Prelude on " Divinum Mysterium" Fred Gramann

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Table Blessing



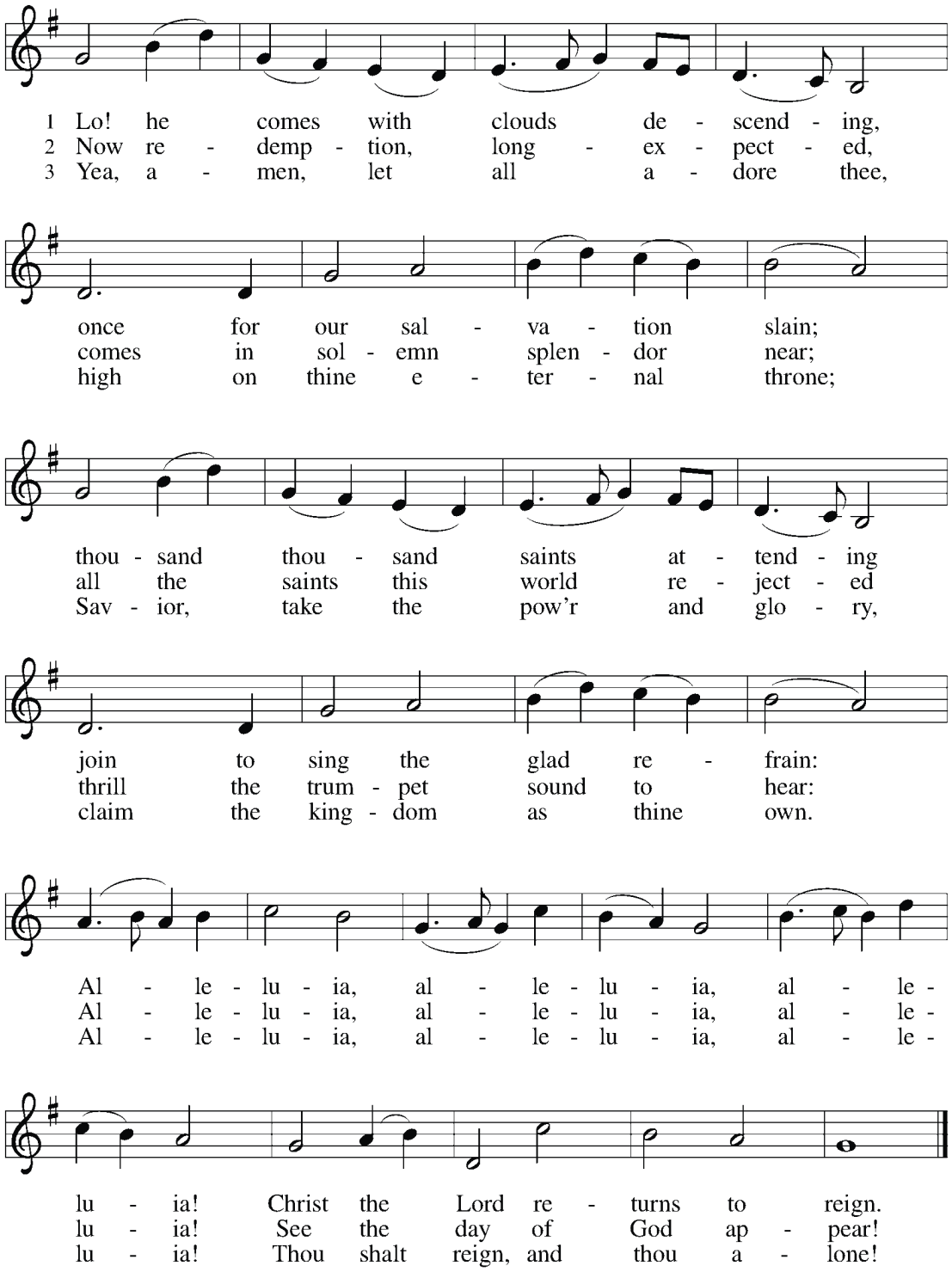
+ God Sends Us To Serve +

Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Song of Sending

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending — ELW 435



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Dismissal

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Kenneth T. Kosche

Bethany Lutheran Church-Holiday Schedule



Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Fest

Nov 29 - Advent Fest

Dec 6 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 9 - Birthday Party for Jesus (last Wednesday of full programming)

Dec 13 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 20 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00. and 7:00pm

Dec 24- Jan 2 - Holiday Office hours 10-2pm

Dec 27 - One Worship Service, 10am

Dec. 27 - Service of Rememberance, 11:30am

Jan 3 - One worship service, 10am

Jan 6 - Epiphany - a night of songs of the season

Jan 13 - First Wednesday of full programming

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Things to Know About News & Events

Happening Today:

- **Drop off your Angel Gifts** by the Mission Center
- **Bethany Christmas Decorating** after both services
- **Adult Education -** Bible Study, 9:45am room 210

Happening Next Sunday:

- **Angel Gifts** drop offs by the Mission Center
- **First Sunday of Advent**

Upcoming Events

Worship:

Four weeks of Advent - worship in preparation for the birth of Christ

Education/Faithformation:

- **Book Study "**Low Anthropology" by David Zahl Dec. 6 & 13

Hospitality:

- **Town Hall of Denver Lecture -** December 3 Dr. John Edward Hasse
- **Women of Bethany:** December 5 12pm we will gather at Ted's Montana Grill in the Landmark DTC area.
- **Funeral Committee:** the funeral committee is seeking volunteers to assist with our funeral ministry. Contact Gayle Newell - gayle@bethnay-denver.org

Outreach:

- Beginning Nov. 22 **Off-drive food donations** to the Market@IFCS can be dropped off in the cart beside the Mission Center Desk on Sunday mornings and by the south door during the week.
- **Angel Gifts 2026 -** Angel Gifts Holiday Donation Drive sponsored by LFS drop off items on Dec. 6
- **Food Bank of the Rockies** Dec. 8 1-4pm pack food for those in need. 12 volunteers are need
- **Wholly Kicks** donate toddler socks during the month of December
- **Look for full details for all our news and events on the Bethany website: Bethany-denver.org/news**

Things To Know About Worship

Welcome to Bethany! If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.

Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!

Sunday Worship services: (8:30am Traditional) - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.(10:00am Casual Blended) a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.

Participating in Worship: There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.

Communion Statement: Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.

Safety: Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.

Hearing Assistance Device: Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.

Worship Servants: Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!

Children at Bethany: Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:

Fidget Station: We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fear fully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany.

Busy Bags: Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles.
Pick one up on the way in and return it on the way out.

Nursery: For directions to our staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.