



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at www.blcenc.org for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our **10:30 AM** service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

L: O God, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: And ransom captive Israel.

L: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

C: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: O God ...

C: We confess that the darkness of this world can feel as if it overshadows your light. May it not be so. May we place neighbor above self. May we not limit your good news only to those who look like us. In the deepest places of our hearts we hide our fear and shame. Shed your light in our lives. Forgive us, restore us, and make us whole.

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the light and peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

A Flickering Candle

Cantors sings "choir" & congregation sings "refrain"

Choir: *A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn's victorious might,
and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.*

All: *Refrain*

Choir: *God's messenger prepares the way, on sin he shines a piercing ray;
(Advent 2) he bids us greet the dawning day renewed and purified.*

All: *Refrain*

Refrain:

Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the

prom - ised Son of God most dear.

Hope, hope, his light will clear the

shades of death and sin.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

CHRISTMAS TRADITION SHARING

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 vs. 2



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He Came Down – ELW 253 vs. 2



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning – ELW 716



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: **And also with you!**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Somebody Build a Manger” – WME

OFFERTORY RESPONSE Now the Heavens Start to Whisper – ACS 901 vs. 2



- 1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257

2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

COMMUNION HYMN

No Wind at the Window – ACS 906



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . vic - tor and . . vic - tim, both . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . God I say yes."

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, do not be afraid!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website

www.blcenc.org under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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