Bethlehem Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Center



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

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 and activity baskets 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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Gift of God" - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc. **"He Came Down"** - Text: Cameroon traditional, Public Domain; Tune: Cameroon traditional, arr. John L. Bell, ©1990 Iona Community / WGRG (North America). **"Hark, the Glad Sound!"** _ Text: Philip D Doddridge, 1702-1751; Tune: *P* CHESTERFIELD: Thomas Haweis 1734-1820; Both Public Domain. **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** - Text: *Psalteriolum Cathoiccarum*, Koln 1750, Public Domain; Tune VENI EMMANUEL": French processional, 15th cent., Public Domain. **"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"** - Text: trad. English carol, 18th cent.; Tune Trad. English carol; melody fr. *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1846.; Both Public Domain. For previous copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under One license.net License No. A-706214. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in the service obtained from One License with License #A-706214. A-706214.
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GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

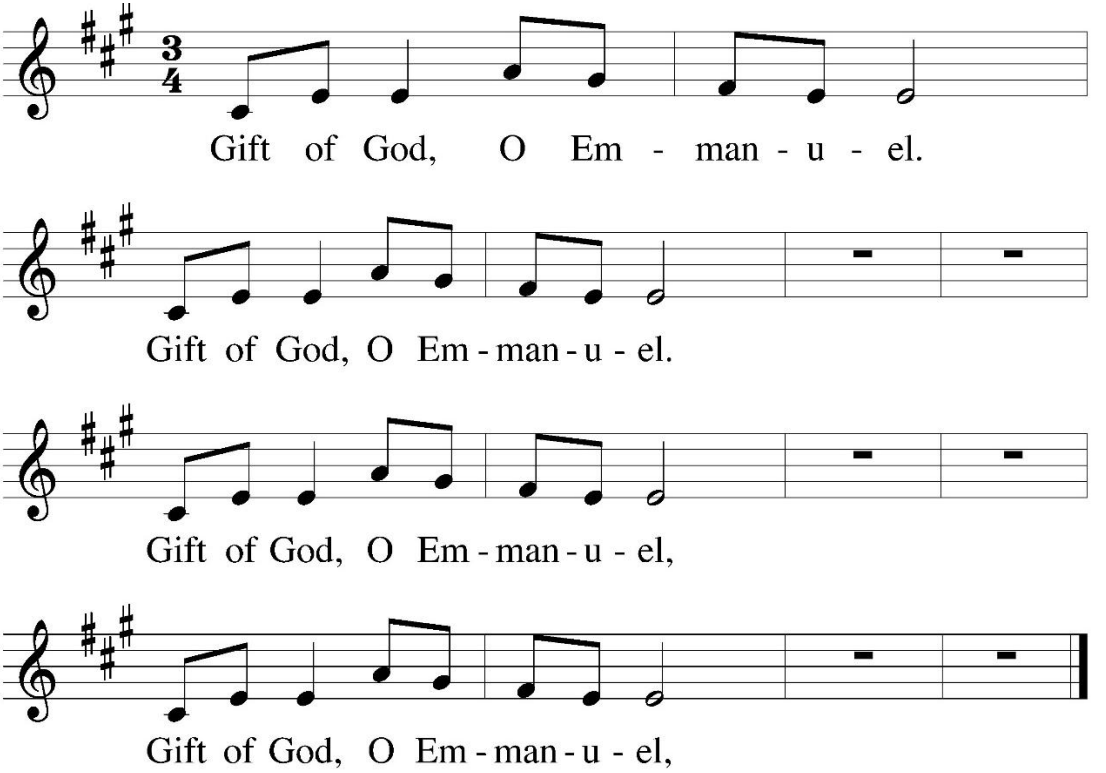
L: Gracious Lord …

C: We yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love. We have not always embraced your message of peace. When we have wandered, and when we are lost, we pray that you would find us and lead us home. When we cannot quench our thirst, satisfy us with your love and grace. When we need forgiveness, shower us with your unending mercy.

L: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God. Know that God loves you beyond all measure, that in Christ, God forgives, and that the Holy One extends hope to all.

KYRIE "Gift of God" – Haugen

Cantors will lead the congregation in singing the chant



GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

SHARING OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray … **C: Amen.**

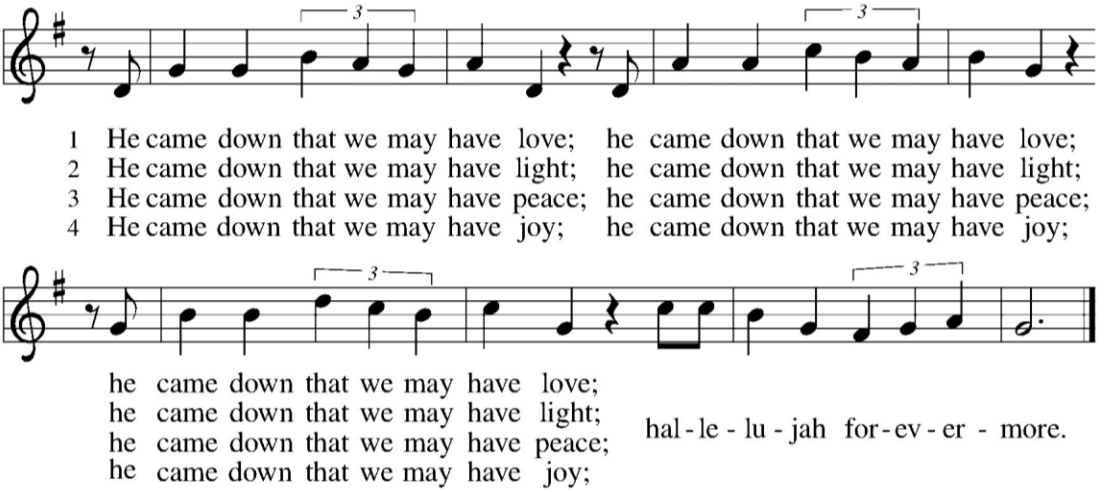
CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 64:1-9

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION He Came Down – ELW 253 vs. 1 & 2

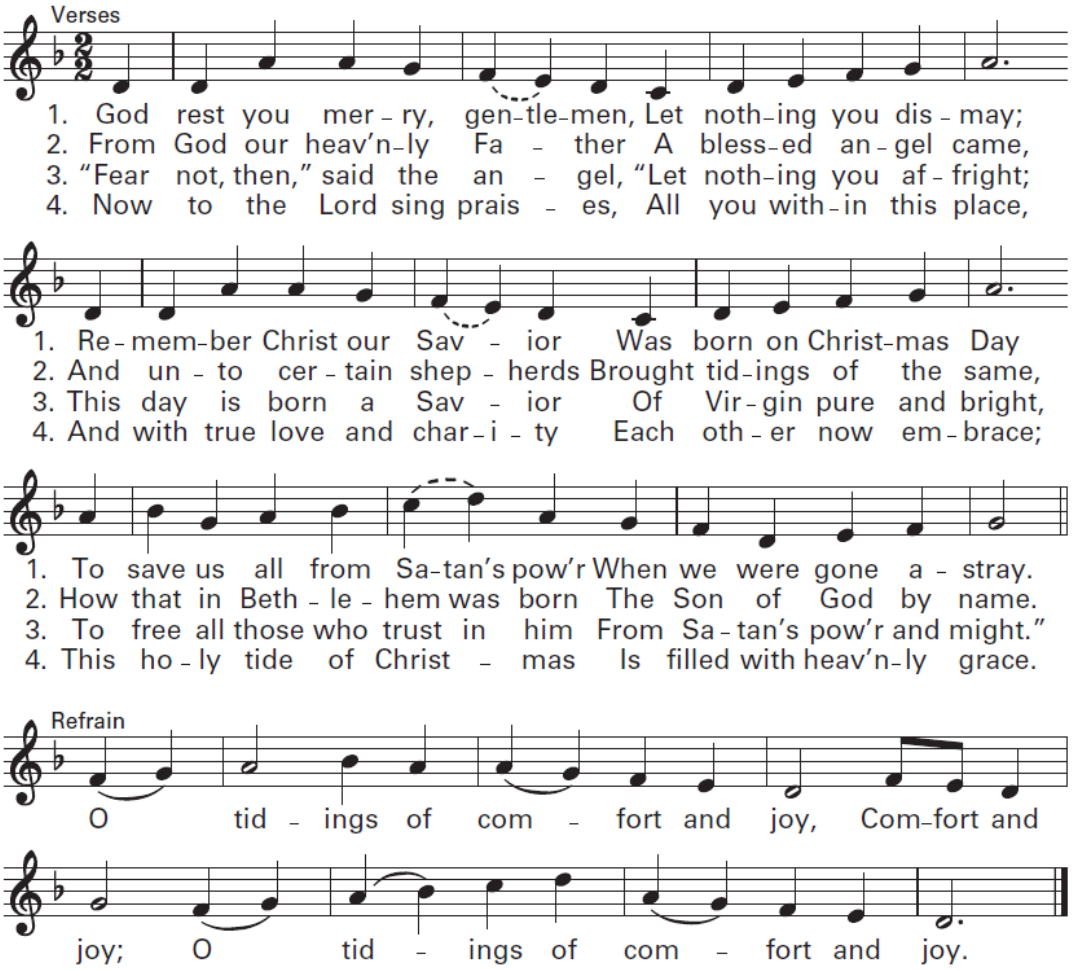


GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

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

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Ursula Meyer & Jamie Newcomb

HYMN OF THE DAY God Rest You Merry Gentlemen vs. 1, 3, & 4



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

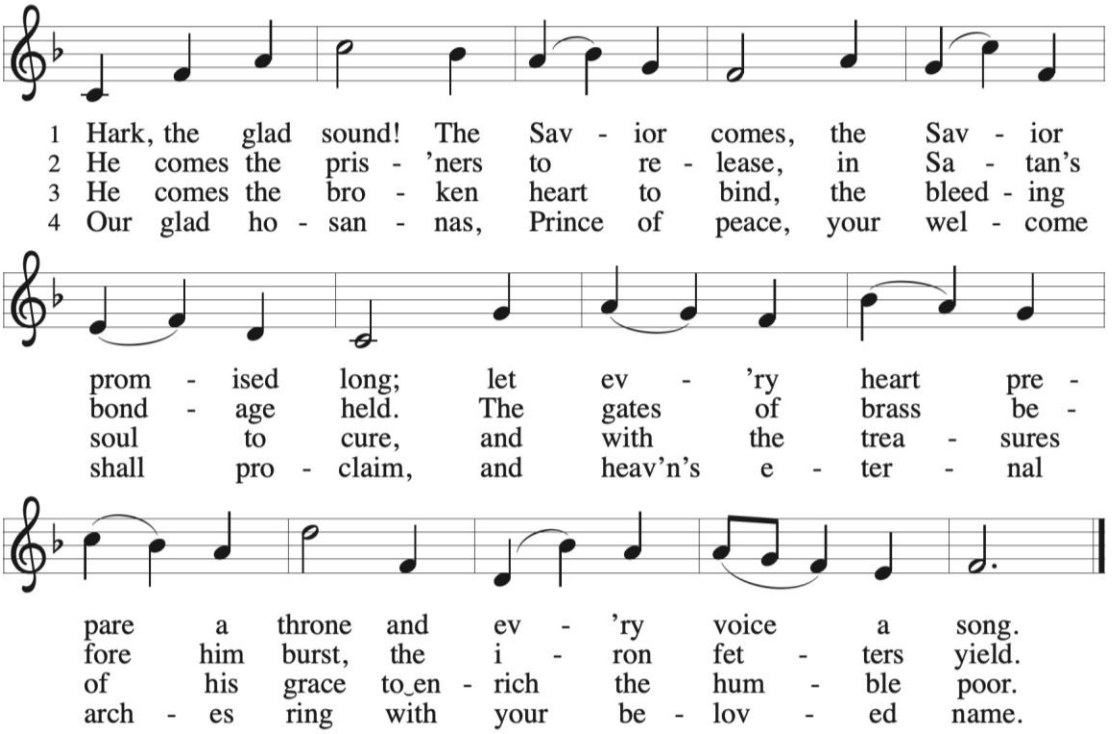
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, **C: And also with you!**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY RESPONSE Hark the Glad Sound – ELW 239 vs. 1



MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

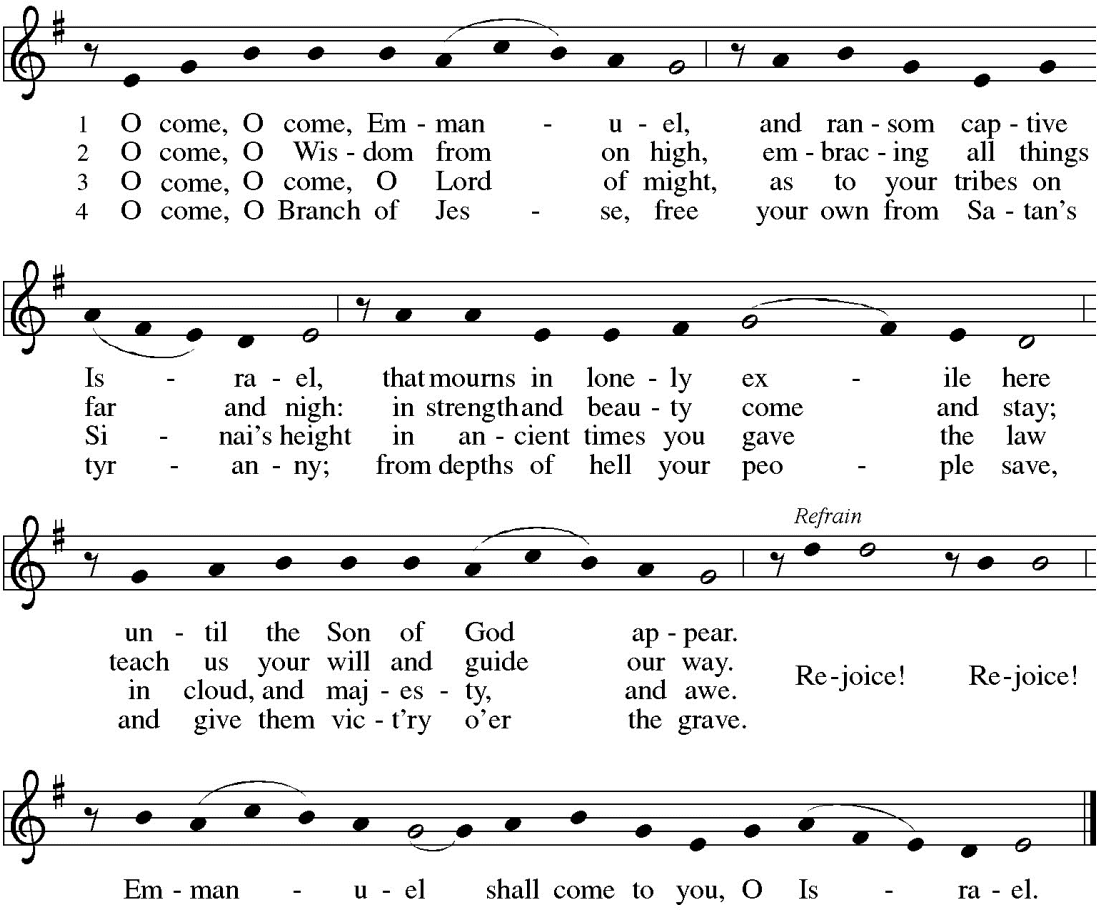
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ELW pg. 112

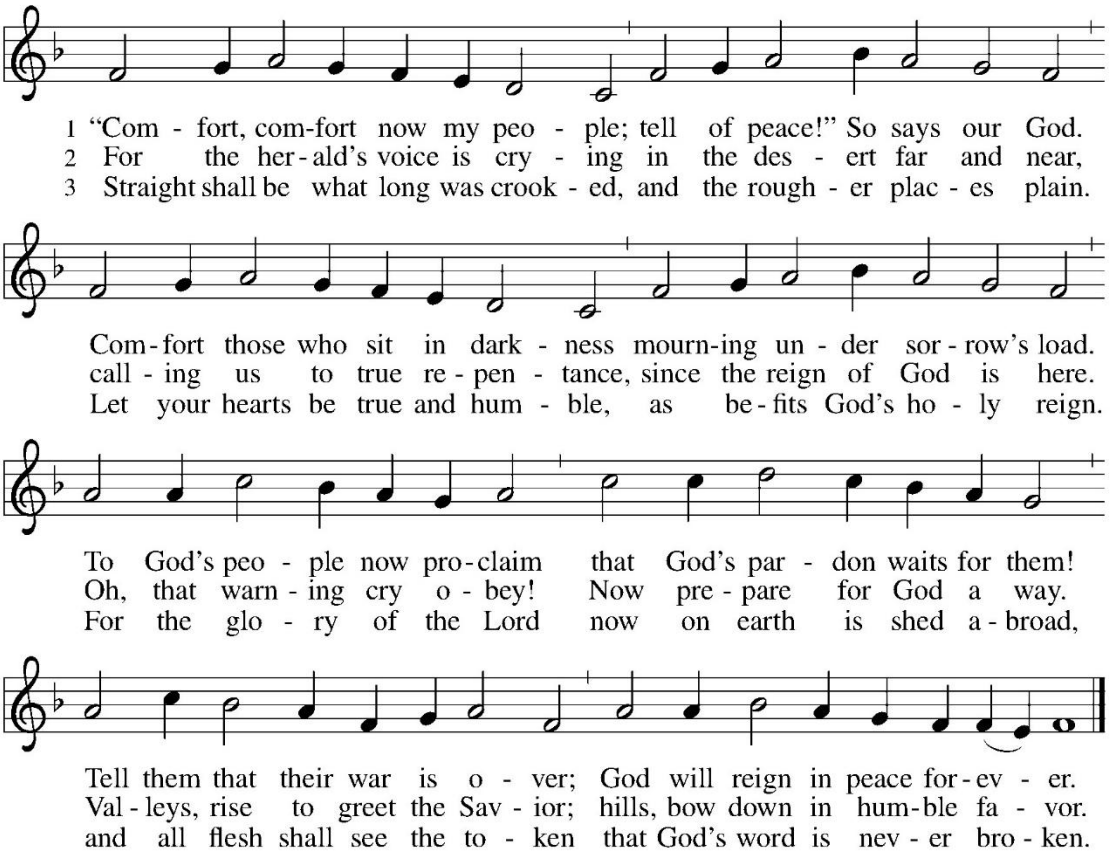
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257

Verse 1



COMMUNION HYMN Comfort, Comfort Now My People – ELW 256

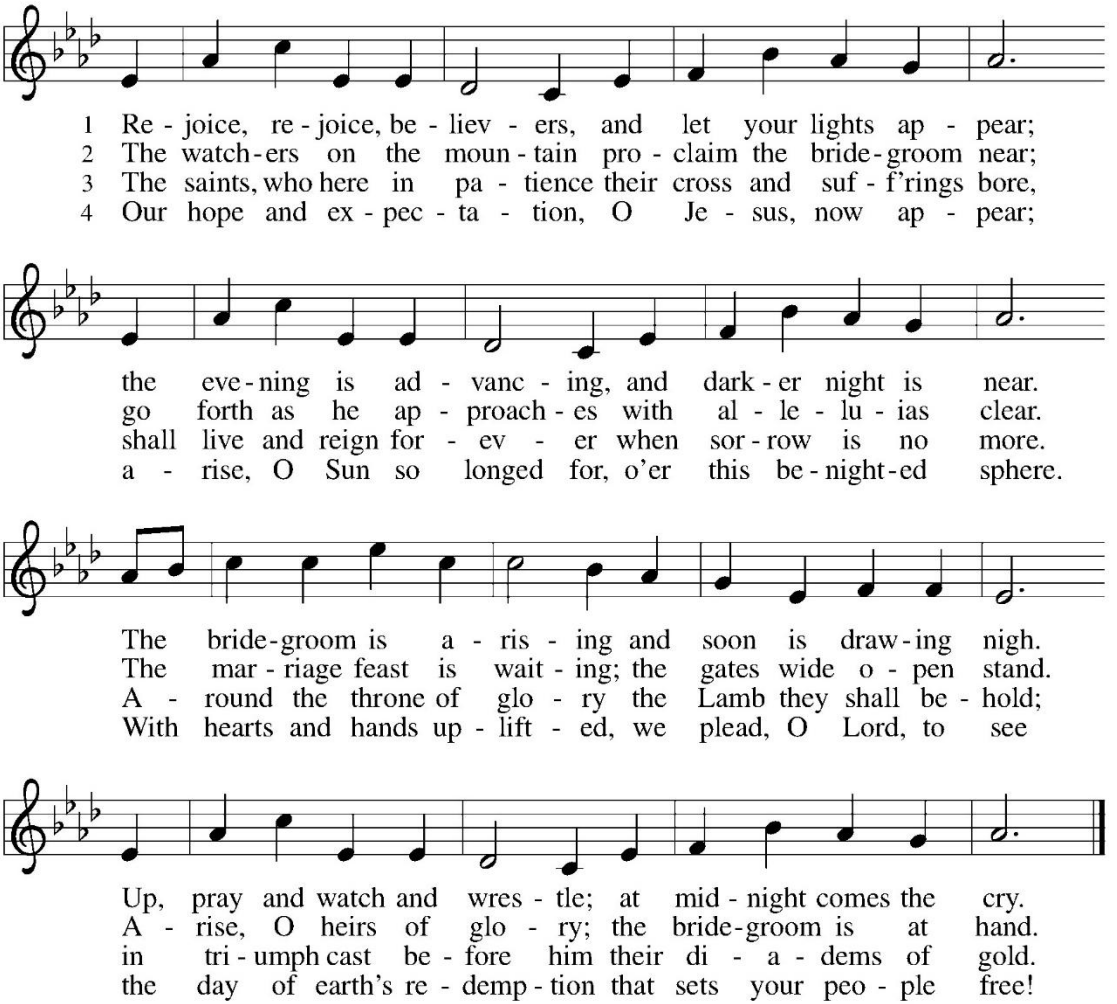


SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244 vs. 1 & 4



DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, prepare the way!

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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