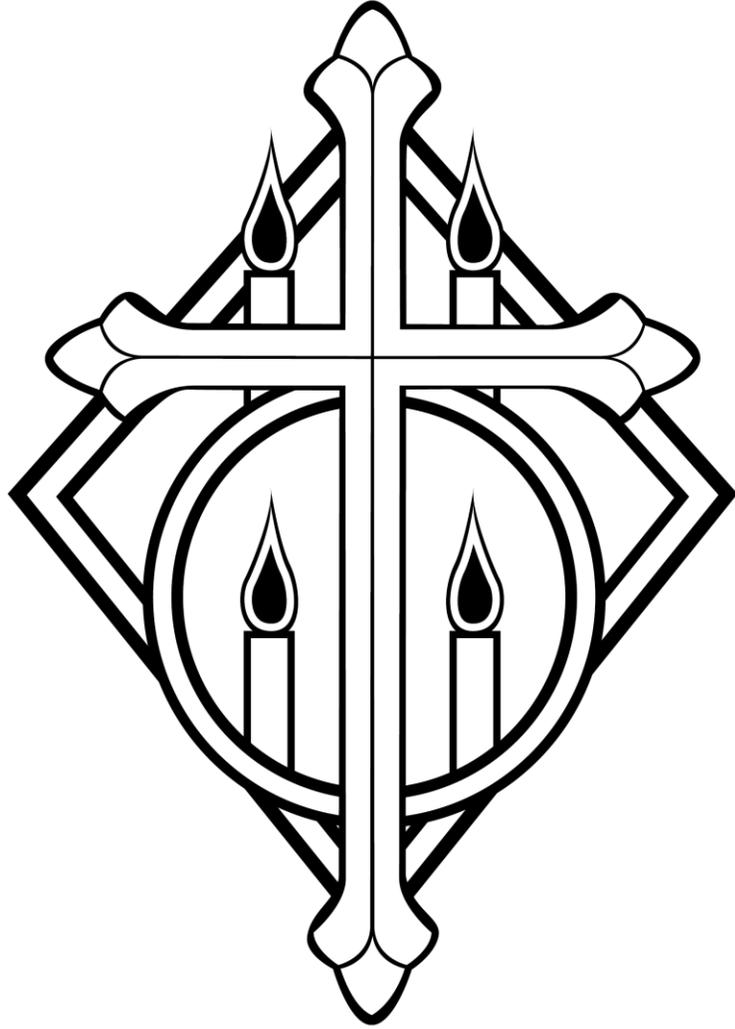


Bethany Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Synod

151 Tremont St., Port Orchard WA 98366 | 360-876-1300

www.BethanyLutheranES.org | Bethany.lutheran@wavecable.com | <http://facebook.com/Bethany.Kitsap>

SERVICE TIMES: Sundays 8:15 & 11am; Mondays 7pm; Sunday School for all ages 9:45am



REJOICE IN _____

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 23, 2018

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer Him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include the participation of the assembly. We are not here to be an audience, we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other. Parts marked **P** are spoken by the pastor, and parts marked **C** are spoken or sung(🎵) by the congregation.

A GUIDE TO OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP

The traditional Divine Service contains elements which are **Sacrificial** (what we do for God) and elements which are **Sacramental** (what God is doing for us). Though the Sacrificial aspects are important, the Sacramental aspects are where the true focus should be. When Jesus visited the home of friends (Luke 10:38-42), Martha was distracted with serving Jesus a meal, while Mary sat listening to Him. Martha requested that Mary help her, and our Savior replied: *"Martha, Martha... one thing is needful, and Mary has chosen that good part."* This is where Bethany's motto comes from, and has application for our worship life: what Martha was doing for Christ (Sacrificial) was certainly appreciated by Him, but what Mary did by sitting at His feet (Sacramental) was a better part – the "one thing needful."

THE LANGUAGE OF WORSHIP

Four languages are represented in liturgical songs in our service. **Hebrew** shows our connection to the Old Testament believers; **Greek** shows our roots in the New Testament apostolic church; **Latin** shows that we are part of the Western heritage of the church, and **English** shows that our worship is also present day and relevant for our time.

CHRIST IN OUR WORSHIP

Note how the **liturgy** presents the life of Christ: His birth, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, etc. All Christian worship is centered in Him and performed through Him.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

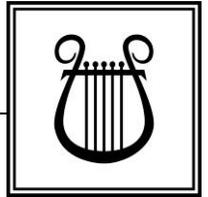
Preacher	Pastor Tony Pittenger
Organist	Mrs. Tanya Bessler
Ushers 8:15	<u>Team 2</u> (Roembke)
Ushers 11	<u>Team 14</u> (Nesseth)
Acolytes 8:15 only	Jack and Nika Pittenger, Eileen Lee, Rory Alonzo
Greeter 8:15	Carrie Grey
Greeter 11	Dave Dahlke
Elder on duty this week	Dave Roembke

🔊 HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE – please ask for a receiver at the usher station

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THE DIVINE SERVICE ELH Rite II



(please stand)

PROCESSIONAL

Congregation will sing opening refrain and refrains after each verse.

Cantor will sing these verses:

- *May the ruler of Israel come*
- *He will shepherd His flock and come*
- *Let us turn to the Lord and come*
- *By the will of God He has come*
- *For the Son of Mary will come*
- *Trust the word of the Lord and come*

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

Gently *mp* James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

Congr: ♪ **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Who made heav'n and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: ♪ **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy on us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

be seated

The Advent IV Introit comes from Isaiah 45:8. **The Introit** is Latin (introitus) meaning "entrance." Years ago the pastor entered the sanctuary singing the Psalm for the day. We now enter the portion of our service where the Word of God comes to us, connecting us to the worship life of the Old Testament church. The Introit always concluded with the **Gloria Patri**, to demonstrate that our God is Triune: Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and by this distinguished the use of Psalms in Christian churches from that of the synagogues.

THE INTROIT

P: Rain down, you heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and bring forth salvation. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork.

THE GLORIA PATRI

**C: ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

THE KYRIE ELEISON

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (ELH 116:1 & 4)

**C: ♪ Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**See, within a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth,
Lend your voices, lend your aid
To proclaim the Savior's birth!
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

THE COLLECT

P: Let us pray:

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD



THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.³A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.⁴Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain.⁵Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken.⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.⁷Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the Lord blows on them. Yes, the people are grass.⁸Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THE GRADUAL

P: Alleluia! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies: for they have been from of old. Alleluia!

C: ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

please stand

P: The Holy Gospel for the fourth Sunday of Advent is written in the 1st chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 19th verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON & SERMON TEXT

John 1:19-28

This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."²¹And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered.²²Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"²⁶"I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands One you do not know. ²⁷He is the One coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

be seated

THE SERMON HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed | 59

THE SERMON

REJOICE IN _____

please stand

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus unto everlasting life. Amen.

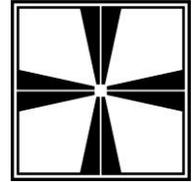
THE OFFERTORY

**C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

be seated

The **Offertory**, from Psalm 51, is the words of David after his fall into sin with Bathsheba, and his recovery into God's kingdom of grace through the work of Nathan. It received its name because church members would offer up bread and wine to be used in the Holy Communion while this hymn was being sung.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND



OFFERING

This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Bethany Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support His saving work. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.

please stand

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, throughout this Advent season we have heard that Christ has come and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

C: Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be kept firm in Your Word and steadfast in the faith until we are received into Your eternal Kingdom.

P: God of faithfulness, we rejoice that You fulfilled Your promise to send the Messiah.

C: Grant that we and all Your people may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word, singing Your praises and receiving His Holy Supper.

P: God of truth, as John the Baptist served as the voice crying out in the wilderness, so also pastors continue to preach and teachers continue to teach Your Word of truth in the wilderness of this fallen world.

C: We give You thanks for those You have raised up for this holy task. Bless them and their labors, and continue to send workers into Your vineyard, that there may be a bountiful harvest.

P: God of justice, You establish earthly government and teach us to obey those who rule over us.

C: Send Your blessing upon all who make, administer and judge our laws, that Your people and all may serve You in peace.

P: God of mercy, we are thankful for all those whose vocations call them to care for us in our time of need, including law officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, doctors and nurses.

C: Keep them in Your providential care, and bless them in their duties.

P: God of compassion, You teach us to make our requests known to You so that we are not anxious about anything. Send Your healing hand upon the sick and the suffering [*including _____*]. Grant that Your peace will guard them in Christ Jesus.

C: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**C: 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.**

be seated

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People | 61

THE COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart, that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you † peace.

C: ♪ **Amen, amen, amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | **63**

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 12/23 *Advent IV*

8:15 am Worship
9:45 am Adult Bible Class
11:00 am Sunday School
Children's Service

MONDAY, 12/24 *Christmas Eve*

7:00 pm & 11:00pm
Candlelight Worship

TUESDAY, 12/25 *Christmas Day*

10:00 am Festival Worship

SUNDAY, 12/30 *Christmas I*

8:15 am & 11:00 am Worship
(no Sunday School today)

EARLY 2019 CALENDAR PLANNING

Wed 1/16 6pm
Bedtime Books at Bethany

Wed 1/23 4-7pm
blockfest

Sun 1/27 1-3pm
BLS/ELC Open House

THE RECORD

Flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Ryan & Michelle Comstock in honor of Addie & Caitlyn's birthdays.

Last Sunday

204 of God's people came to worship and hear His holy Word. 60 attended Sunday School & Adult Bible Class.

STEWARDSHIP

*Give with a joyful
heart!*

FINANCE CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Through 11/25/18
Projected Budget Giving = \$331,711.90
Actual Received = \$337,594.11
Abounding by = \$5,882.21 (1.7%)

2019 Offering Envelopes are in! If anyone needs a box and didn't receive one in their church mailbox, stop by the office and ask the church secretary or speak to Henry Shadbolt (Finance Chairman). *(and if you received a box and do NOT need one, please return to the same).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS
WITH US!

**Sunday School
Children's Christmas
Service**

today at 11:00am

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services**
7 & 11pm

**Christmas Day
Festival Worship**
10am

Handouts on our **Advent candles** and the **Chrismon ornaments** on our tree are available on the back counter under the mailboxes (green & lavender paper).

New Flower Chart is posted next to the stairway door. Sign up now to sponsor altar flowers in 2019. Cost is \$40 per date, payable by cash or check to Bethany Lutheran any time prior to your Sunday.

(leave payments in the church office)

Holiday Office Schedule:

Mon-Wed, 12/24-26	closed
Thurs-Fri, 12/27-28	8am-noon
Mon-Tues, 12/31-1/1/19	closed
Wed-Fri, 1/2-1/4	8am-noon

NOTE OF THANKS

Bob & Charly Riedel and family would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, and well wishes on their wedding!