

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hinderance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

7Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”<sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**Psalm: Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29)**

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**<sup>2</sup>I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

**<sup>4</sup>“I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.”**

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

**<sup>19</sup>Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: “I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

<sup>20</sup>I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

**<sup>21</sup>my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.**

<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

**<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.**

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

**<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.**

<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’

**<sup>27</sup>I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.**

<sup>28</sup>Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.

**<sup>29</sup>I will establish his line forever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure.**

**Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

**Today: December 24th**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
9:15-Adult SS  
No Youth SS  
9:30- Coffee Fellowship  
10:30-Worship  
**5:30-Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
**Service w/Communion**  
**Monday: December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Day/Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Tuesday: December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30-Prayer Group  
9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC

**Sunday: December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
9:15-Adult SS  
No Youth SS  
9:30- Coffee Fellowship  
10:30-Worship

**Prayer Concerns.** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Viola McDaniels, Ryan Armstrong, Bob Stover, Liz Dunbar, Myra Walstead, Bob Winkelman, Linda Booth, Monica Isom, Tiffany Klappenbach, Don & Marjean Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Rodolfo Rezarín, Ely Kleszczelski, Colleen Phillips, Neil Bailey, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Christine Gordon, Dorothy Sandvig, Helen Dodge, Pastor James Puotyal, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries

**Lectors:** Tom Anderson  
**Ushers:** December 24<sup>th</sup> -Dean & Eloise Armstrong  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Eve. - Dean & Eloise Armstrong  
December 31<sup>st</sup>- Jim & Denise Hodgell

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth  
**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2800.00**

**Faith Promise** \$2339.00      **Worship 50**  
**Sunday School \$8.00**    Adult SS 0      Youth SS 13  
Christmas \$100.00      Potluck 48.00

**Birthdays:** 12-29-John Hersom, 30-Julie Dawson

\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.  
**Altar Flowers:**

An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (as able)

**ORDER OF THE SERVICE**  
PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL  
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION**

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS	P.56
*HYMN <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<b>LBW 41</b>
*GREETING	P.57
ADVENT IV	<b>Blue insert</b>
*PRAYER OF THE DAY	(bulletin-in unison)

**MEDITATION ON GOD’S WORD**

**ADVENT READING**      **“ADVENT”**  
**Waiting For The Son ~**      **Tom Anderson**

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**  
**PSALM: Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29)**      (bulletin – responsively)  
**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

*ALLELUA VERSE	P.62
* <b>THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38</b>	
*GOSPEL RESPONSES	P.63

CHILDREN’S SERMON  
SERMON  
HYMN    *What Child is This*      **LBW 40**  
APOSTLES’ CREED      P.65

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD**

OFFERING/ Processional <b>“Offertory Psalm”</b>	P.75
*OFFERTORY	P.75

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
    \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
    Leader: ...Lord in your mercy  
    Response: Hear our prayer.

\***THE LORD’S PRAYER**      **CH 631**

**OUR SENDING**

*BENEDICTION	P.76
*HYMN <i>Joy to the World</i>	<b>LBW 39</b>
*DISMISSAL	

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**December 24, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT  
TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

*We are a*  
**Christ-Centered**  
**Mission-Driven**  
**Traditionally-Grounded**  
**Congregationally-Focused**  
**Church**