



Welcome to Worship!

Sunday, November 30, 2025 ~ 8:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1620 Milwaukee Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD

(605) 225-9740 † www.bethlehemaberdeen.org

office@bethlehemaberdeen.org † www.facebook.com/BethlehemAberdeen

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People - Setting by Paul Manz

WELCOME & INVITATIONS

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Candle of Hope

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

**We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together.
We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If you long to feel closer to God, then the Prayer of Confession is a step in the right direction. For in the Prayer of Confession, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer.

So join me in this prayer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

Ever-present God,

We long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod,

Even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

Family of faith,

Even when we doubt God's presence,

Even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,

God is always moving closer to us.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away.

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

**Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.**

**Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!**

**From God's heart the Savior speeds,
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.**

**Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.**

**Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of
all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

CHILDREN'S GOOD NEWS TIME

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-13

Red: page 831, **Brown:** page 1127; **Gray:** page 1102

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Time of Herod (melody: In the Bleak Midwinter)

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds
Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

(Use QR code to access prayer list.)



Congregation Response: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

God of the Harvest

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

**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 to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Generous God, who is always with us. **Thank you for this day. Thank you for seeing us and giving us hope, especially when we are afraid. Use what we are offering today to bring hope to others, and help us to see our neighbors in the same way that you see us. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

In a fearful world,

Let us know that God is with us.

In a fearful world,

Let us choose courage whenever we can.

In a fearful world,

Let us remember that in all things, good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls,

The one who sends,

And the one who journeys with-

Let us go in peace and

Be not afraid. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Earth is Hopeful



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y, el sur - co - a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
for - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



clá - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad, dar - nos li - ber - tad,
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free,
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth,
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

SENDING WORDS

Go with hope to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying - Johann Gottfried Walther

Today's Ministers

Preaching.....Pastor Matt Spoden
Assisting Minister Mandy Boe
Musicians Darlyne Johnson, Sheree Hogan & Joell Rachel
Visual Communications Tech.....Kennadee Wagner
Livestream Camera TechDan Richardt
Sound Techs..... Hugh Dahme & Gabe Harmel
Candle Lighting Family Katie & Mitch Crawford Family

The Sanctuary & Chapel have a Hearing Loop to assist those with hearing loss. Activate the T-coil feature on your hearing aid or use a Loop Listening device (available from the usher). If you have questions, we'll be happy to connect you with another Hearing Loop user.

Radio Broadcast - Our Sunday 8:30 a.m. service is **broadcast** each Sunday morning at **10:45 on KGIM 1420 AM.**

The Globe Offering will go to the Women of the ELCA Thank Offering. The women of Bethlehem have a long history of giving support to the ministries of women throughout the world. WELCA includes all women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and other ELCA churches. Thank Offerings support the ongoing work of WELCA in our congregation, our synod, and the church wide office in Chicago as well as numerous resources for women. Visit www.womenoftheelca.org for more information. To become involved in Bethlehem's group, contact Joan Ernst at 605-290-3076.

Giving to Bethlehem

Scan the QR code for our simple, online giving portal. It's the easiest and most convenient way to consistently support the ministries of Bethlehem. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Questions about your giving? Contact Jeannie, Director of Administration at jhaaland@bethlehemaberdeen.org.



SCAN ME

The bulletin is sponsored by Gary & Dlon Kvernevig and Family
in memory of Gary & Dlon Kvernevig's son, Michael.