

**A SERVICE OF GOD'S WORD
AND HOLY COMMUNION**

**First Week of Advent
November 27, 2022**



**BRIGHTON HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
3830 California Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 761-8545**

www.brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

Welcome to Worship at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church

We thank God you have found your way here and hope and trust that your worship experience today will be meaningful and uplifting. We welcome all persons to our worship and to our communion table.

We welcome infants and children as participants in our worship. At the back of the sanctuary, is our kid's shelf containing some activities such as coloring books, if needed. The sound of little ones during worship is joyous and welcomed.

Restrooms are available downstairs (at the California Ave. entrance) or down the hall on the right.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to sign the guest book, and feel free to ask the pastor, usher, or fellow worshiper if you have any questions.

Pastor: Parker Kantos
715-514-9918 or PastorParkerK@gmail.com

Music Director: Amy Bartoli
musicdirector@brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

Maintenance Manager: Steven Cvetkovic
maintenance@brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

Office Administrator: Janet Strahosky
church@brightonheightslutheranchurch.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 2pm

PRAISE: *See the Light (WB #9)*
Hope has Come (WB #37)

WELCOME

GATHERING

P: We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* (ELW #244)

GREETING

P: 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Today we light the first candle of advent, the candle of hope. We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the lord. We Hope God will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle in hope.

C: **On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.**

We Light a Candle

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Light a Candle'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are identical and contain the lyrics: 'We light a can-dle for hope — and our world that's long-ing for hope'. The third staff contains the lyrics: 'Ho - ly One, — shine with the fire of our lives oh'. The fourth staff is identical to the first two and contains the lyrics: 'We light a cand-le for hope — and our world that's long-ing for hope'.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah

L: ²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
“May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,**
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A Reading from Romans

L: ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Gospel Acclamation* (ELW #174)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The holy gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERMON, TEXTS, ETC.

We invite any questions that are generated from any of the readings or from the sermon.

SERMON NOTES

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Soon and Very Soon* (ELW #439)

CREED

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

*Or, "Christian" or "Universal"

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING



An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. As the offering is collected, we sing:

SANCTUARY

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and True,
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(repeat)**

During this time, the table is set. Feel free to come forward from the Assembly to the Alter Rail if you are in need of extra prayer.

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands and gifts are brought forward.

**Lord, prepare me to be a testimony, pure and holy, tried and True,
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living testimony for you.**

**Lord, prepare me to be a missionary, pure and holy, tried and True,
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living missionary for you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

A: In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

A: There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

A: No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

LORD'S PRAYER

P: In the power of Christ we stand and pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. All are welcome.

COMMUNION

All who seek God and a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to come forward to receive communion at the ushers' invitation. Communion will be by intinction. Please receive the bread (body) and dip it in the wine (blood).

Please let the pastor know if you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or if you would like individually packaged communion.

You are invited to bring forward infants and children who do not yet receive the sacrament to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG: *Come to Jesus* (WB #38)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Hymn of Heaven* (WB #4)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



DECORATING SCHEDULE

Please stay after service to help us prepare for Christmas by decorating the Church:

November 27 - Greens

December 4 - Candles

December 11 - Tree

December 18 - Nativity & Banners



We will be discussing the Winterfest activities today while we decorate, so join us for that also.

ANGEL TREE

We are supporting the children at Holy Family Institute this Christmas with an Angel Tree in the back of the sanctuary. On the back of each is their name, age, and item(s) that they would like. Place them in a gift bag, attach the Angel to the outside, and return it back to church asap. **Please do not wrap gifts.** If you have any questions, please see Jan Krepp.



Place your orders for poinsettias for the altar this Christmas Season. See the insert for more information.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, after worship. We urge you to attend.



SOCKS 'N SOUP



A sock and soup collection has been organized by one of our former substitute organists, Kathy Chavka. Please bring new socks for men and women and any type of canned soup to the Church before December 4 and Patty Petrusch will deliver them to Kathy's church.



JESUS AND ME (JAM) WEDNESDAYS

Hey Kids! Join us on Wednesdays after school for help with homework assignments, and after enjoy snacks, activities, crafts, etc. We not only help you understand life and its lessons, but we will feed you dinner to boot! Have your family come at 5:45 for a hot meal and stay for worship at 6:30.



FREE HOT MEALS
ALL ARE WELCOME



Our services are now being live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. They will be happening live at 10 on YouTube. To find it, simply go to YouTube and search Brighton Heights Lutheran Church. Once it is live, it will show up on the channel. If you subscribe to the Brighton Heights Lutheran Church YouTube Channel, you can choose to be notified when we go live. The worship services will also be on YouTube after the service concludes.

Also, please check out our helpful links sheet in the back of church.

Download our church app here!

<https://tithely.app.link/brighton-heights-lutheran-church>



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SHUT-IN: Bonnie Furman, Betty Lou Moore, Susan Spriggs, Michelle Anderson



FOR HEALING AND WELL-BEING: Chad Lowe, Roy, Janice & Forest Engleman, Skip Lugaila, Donna Erdner, Tony Lesick, Tommy Mulder, Pat Donovan-Tomei, Alyssa Cammarata, Frank Sobien, Jerry Smith, Tracy Bair, Alek Fink, Dan Cutter, Keri Zipay, Jerrick Dorsey, Calista Frost, Vanessa, Jonathan & Ken Johnson, Flo Morrow, Brenda Burns, Richard Kendall, Tom Harmon, Georgia Kotula, Opal Kunz, Marcey Mephs, Diane C., Carol Martinez, Mary Ellen Still, Julianna Eddina, Elmer Lichauer, Scott Fink, Chantelle, Luke Recker, Melissa Stapinsky, Bob Haller, Ryan Yesenchak, Seth McClarey, Cindy Roby, Jim Christopher, Vicki Reed, Chuck DeJohn, Beverly Ohemeng, Bonnie Turkovich, Sue O'Connell, Rev.

Bill White, Brie & Sean O'Rourke, Cheri, Bev Chenault, Stacey Dorsey, Diane & Michael Scott, Elouise Peet, Rosemary Denton, Kimberly Robinson, Dorothea McLaughlin, and all those in need of God's healing touch

FOR HEALTH AND STRENGTH: Julia Ruth Carr, newborn daughter of Brad & Erica, Sadie Godby (18mo), Lilyana Kline (1mo), Rosemary Denton (infant), Noah Temrczko (3yo)

SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Erik Kunkle, James Thompson, Matthew McPaul, Jason Fullmer, Jason Cole, Jacob S., and All Members of our Military, Law Enforcement & First Responders

Please keep those who live in the path of the recent storms in your prayers for safety, comfort and recovery.

Please pray for those who are on these lists as well as those who also need prayers that are not listed.

WEEKLY SERVERS

	Nov 27
Usher/Greeter:	Patty Petrusch
Acolyte:	TBD
Lector:	Bernie Lundy
Communion Presenters:	Opal Kunz & Patty Ireland
Communion Helper:	Jan Krepp

Thanks to all who take part in worship leadership. If you are not listed and want to serve, please phone the church office.

Text for Next Week: Matthew 3:1-12

Thank you for worshiping with us.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11/27 9:00am Reading the Bible in a Year
10:00am Worship
11:00am ADVENT Decorating & Winterfest Discussion
- 11/30 Jesus and Me Wednesday
3:15pm AFTERSCHOOL Program with Homework Help, Snacks, Activities for Kids
5:45pm Community Family Dinner
6:30pm Worship
- 12/1 6:30pm Darts
- 12/4 9:00am Reading the Bible in a Year
10:00am Worship
11:00am ADVENT Decorating

