

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

Evening Prayer
December 24, 2020

Processional Hymn #888 O Gladsome Light, O Grace



1 O glad-some Light, O Grace Of God the Fa-ther's face,
2 As day-light turns to night, We see the fad-ing light,
3 To Thee of right be-longs All praise of ho-ly songs,



E-ter-nal splen-dor wear-ing: Ce-les-tial, ho-ly, blest,
Our eve-ning hymn out-pour-ing, Fa-ther of might un-known,
O Son of God, Life-giv-er; Thee, there-fore, O Most High,

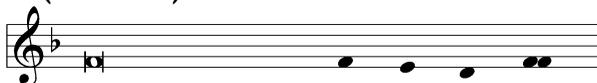


Our Sav-ior Je-sus Christ, Joy-ful in Thine ap-pear-ing!
Thee, His in-car-nate Son, And Ho-ly Ghost a-dor-ing.
The world doth glo-ri-fy And shall ex-alt for-ev-er.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of Light

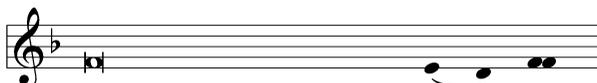
Versicles (Common)



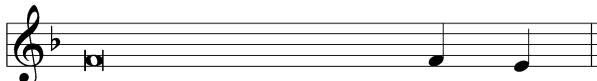
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



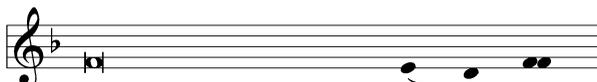
C the light no darkness can o-ver-come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C and the day is almost o-ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark-ness

Thanksgiving for Light

♩ Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.
A - men.

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Psalmody

Psalm 141

♩ Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical score for Psalm 141 is written on two staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in-cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick-ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

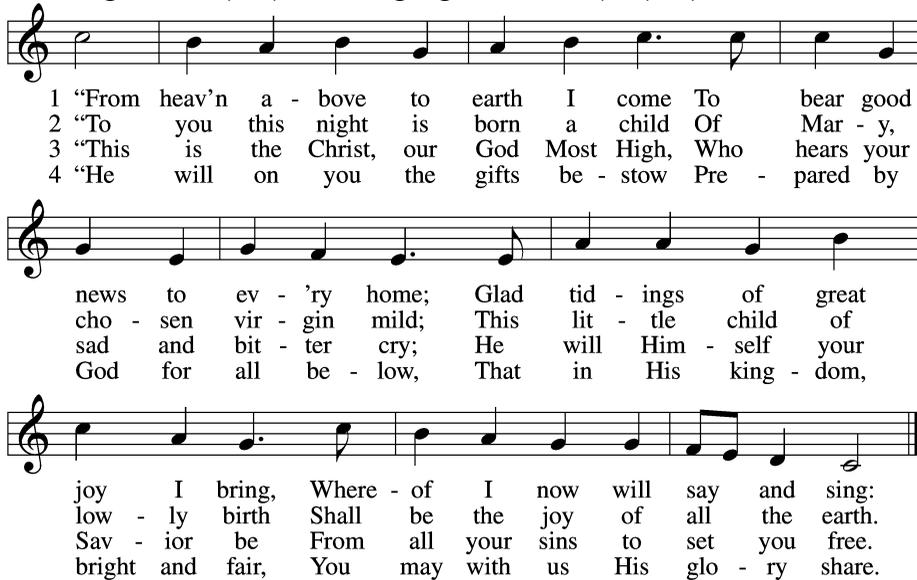


Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Psalm Prayer

- L** Let us pray.
O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Office Hymn #358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
Choir sings vs 1-5,11,13 Congregation 6-10,12,14,15



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

- 5 “These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were
made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Final Reading Response

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sermon

Choir "The Christmas Story" See insert

Offering may be left before or after the service in the plates by the doors.

Prayer

Litany

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



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

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



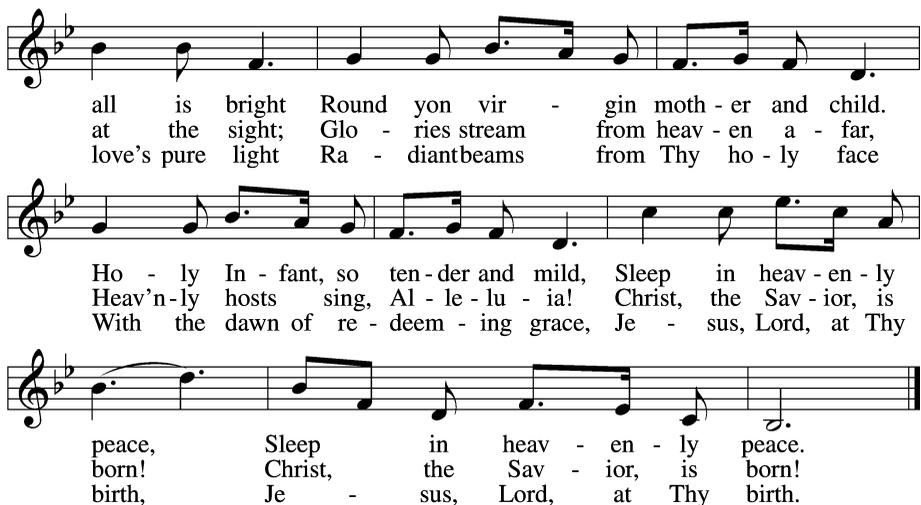
Collect For Peace

L O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



363 Silent Night, Holy Night





all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Preaching | Rev. Samuel Wirgau |
| Fieldworker | Sem. Nicholas Gapski and Sem. Aaron Coggins |
| Deaconess | Wendy Boehm |
| Crucifer | Ben Schueler |
| Head Elder | Lloyd Meyer |
| Elders on Duty | Brian Bauermeister, Glen Werling |
| Kantor | Richard Brinkley |
| Choir | Lynae McDonald, Carolyn Brinkley, Rev. Moehring |
| Flutist | Emilee Whitsitt |
| Altar Guild Chairman | Dalene Springer |
| Ushers | Josh Boehm, Rob Meyer, Aspen Fisher Don Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau | 260-273-7595 |
| (Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com) | |
| Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office | 260-597-7121 |
| Bethlehem Lutheran School | 260-597-7366 |
| Principal: Mr. Mark Schallhorn | 260-301-9096 |
| Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley | 260-705-4105 |
| Deaconess: Wendy Boehm | 260-415-8526 |
| Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org | |

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|---------------|-------------------|---|
| FRIDAY | 9:00 a.m. | Christmas Day Service |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Family Bible Class |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7) |

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at hklep@msn.com or by calling the church office at 597-7121.

<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 8:00 a.m. Livestream

Pastor Wirgau will also be available as needed to serve you Christ's gifts in an individual or smaller setting if that is what is best. You can utilize the sign up here on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aba823aaf85-bethlehem1> or send me an email: samuel.wirgau@gmail.com, or call or text: 260-273-7595. You can also call the church or email Heidi and she can get that set up as well.

The Christmas Story
A Little Cantata
Johannes Petzold

1. Prelude
2. Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heaven again
And give us His own Son.
3. Caesar Augustus did decree
That his whole world should numbered be.
Then Joseph, too, with Mary mild
Did journey forth, though she was great with child.
4. From Nazareth's domain they came
To a city Bethlehem by name.
And thus it came to pass, while there;
That Mary did the Infant bear.
5. She laid Him in a manger crib.
In swaddling clothes His glory hid.
There was no room for them in the inn;
He comes the Christ our souls to win,
6. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne.
Is born an Infant small,
And in a manger poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall.
7. The shepherds watched their flocks by night
When, lo, they saw a heav'nly light.
Behold! God's angel did appear,
And they were filled with awe and fear.
8. "Fear not!" the angel said to them.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring.
To you this day is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild."
9. "This Child is born in David's town,
As Micah long ago made known,
Now by this sign to Him be led:
He lies in lowly manger bed."

10. He veils in flesh His pow'r divine
A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must pine
Who heav'n and earth did make.
11. Then sang the angels in the sky:
"All glory be to God on high;
To men on earth peace and good will;
Great gladness now their heart shall fill."
12. A wondrous change which He does make!
He takes our flesh and blood,
And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty of God.
13. As then to heav'n the angels sped,
One shepherd to the other said:
"To Bethlehem now let us go
That we may there our Savior know.
14. They came with haste and found the Child
With Joseph and with Mary mild.
There lying in a manger stall
Was He who came to save us all.
15. He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need?
16. This saying then the shepherds told,
Made known abroad to young and old,
And all who heard of Jesus' birth
Were filled with wonder, joy, and mirth.
17. But Mary kept what she had heard,
And pondered in her heart their word.
With joy the shepherds did depart
And praised the Lord with grateful heart.
18. He opens us again the door
Of paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more.
To God our thanks we pay.