

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Christmas Day

Divine Service – Setting One

December 25, 2023

Pre-Service Christmas Medley *Bethlehem Handbell Choir*

Processional Hymn

#358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*

and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,

and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,*

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*

and to the Holy / Spirit;

*as it was in the be- / ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

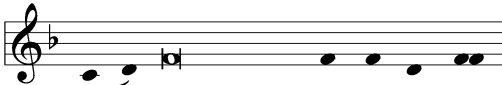
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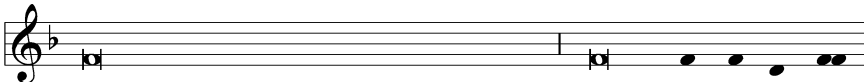
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



[A] For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



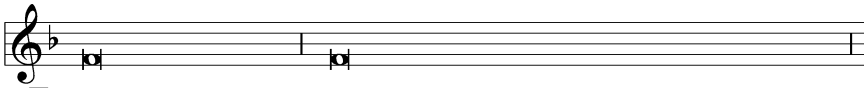
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



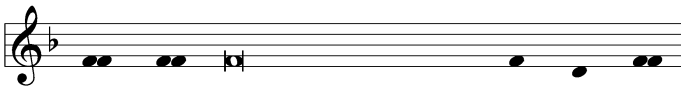
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “To us a Child of Hope is Born”

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

“Bring Forth, O Beauteous Light”

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.




C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Word Became Flesh

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

#382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)

Joyce Krumma (aunt of Rick Krumma)

Donita Yates (Cousin of Clara Conrad)

Tom Black (father of Ed Black)

Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)

Margaret Whitesel, Joellen Meyer,

Norvin Bauermeister, Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)

In Time of Comfort and Sorrow *Family and friends of Mark Jackson*

Thanksgiving and blessing of a newborn baby: *A baby girl to Adam and Olivia Lambert*

A baby boy to Adam and Allie Nahrwold

A baby girl to Michael and Hope Gresley

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Betsy Dodgers, Kristin Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger,*

Jessica Schumm, Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Margaret Moore, Reese Springer,

Lauren Stoppenhagen, Shelby Todd

We pray for protection: *Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Imogene Bultemeier- in Hospice, Marilyn Meyer (Woodcrest)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Gloria Siela (home), Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

We pray for our schools

We pray for our Church and all her workers

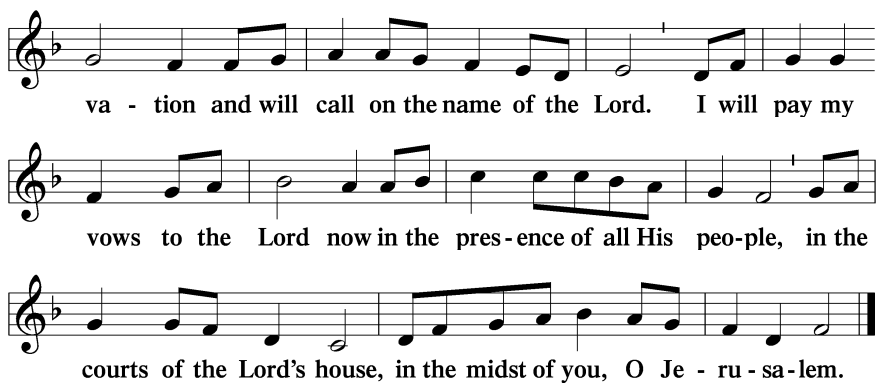
We pray for all military personnel

Offering

Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

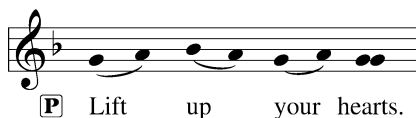
Preface



P The Lord be with you.



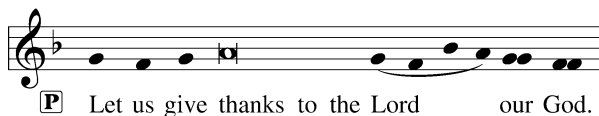
G And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

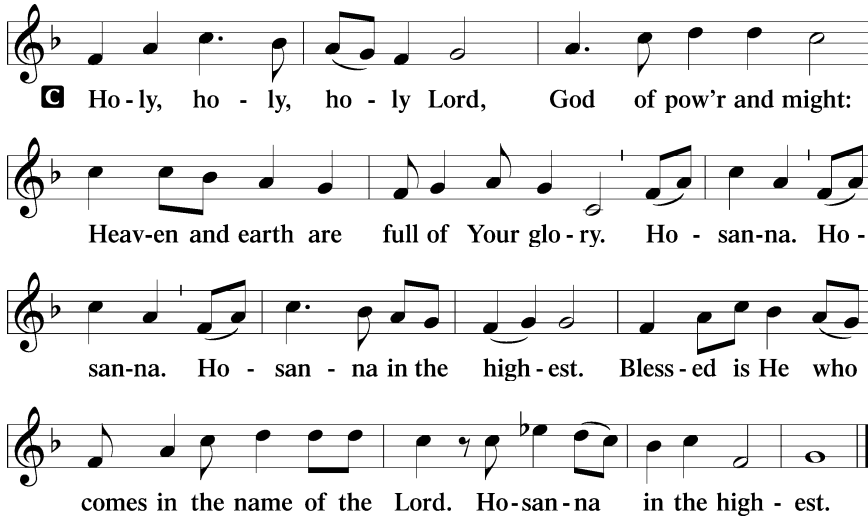


G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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;

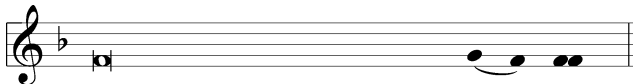
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

Distribution Hymns

#360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

#370 What Child Is This

#379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

#373 See amid the Winter's Snow

#386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

#374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



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.

Post-Communion Collect

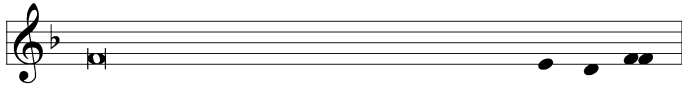
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Christmas Day bulletin artwork was done by Owen Book Alejandro
5th grade student at Bethlehem*

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Fieldworker	Sem. Morgan Phillips and Sem. William Bales
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choirs	Bethlehem Handbell and Adult Choir
Acolyte	Volunteers
Crucifer	Hunter Householder
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Todd Otinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger Jay Werling, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	260-273-7595
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School Office	260-597-7366
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
<i>Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org</i>	



The Poinsettia plants decorating our sanctuary
this Christmas have been
given to the glory of God by the following:

- *Brian and Sheryl Bauermeister and family in loving memory of
Glenn & Pauline Bauermeister, Tim Dodge, Charles Rochford
and in honor of Nancy Rochford*
- *Scott Bauermeister in loving memory of Glenn and Pauline Bauermeister*
- *Ed and Lisa Black in loving memory of Raymond and Berenice Stoppenhagen*
- *Josh and Wendy Boehm in loving memory of Julia Boehm*
- *Brian and Jennifer Bultemeier family in loving memory of Aldon and Joyce Bultemeier,
Woody and Lucy Mewhorter*
- *Steve and Clara Conrad in loving memory of Jane L. Johnson
and in honor of Kay J. Johnson, Marvin and Cathy Conrad*
- *Loren Dathe in loving memory Anita Dathe and in honor of Oliver and Chloe*
- *Larry Eichler in loving memory of Joan K. Eichler*
- *David and Ronda Flesch in loving memory of Keith Flesch, Rita Markey
and Glenn and Pauline Bauermeister also in honor of Josie Flesch*
- *Milton and Patsy Gallmeyer in loving memory of our parents
and in honor of our children and grandchildren.*
- *Jeff and Lisa Gresley in honor of our children and grandchildren*
- *Lane and Jeni Harkless in loving memory of Kristie White*
- *Dan and Heidi Kleppinger*
- *Keith and Dorothy Krick in celebration of 48 years of marriage coming in January*
- *Jason and Tisha Laley and family in loving memory of Lynn Dishong and Michael Laley
and Bruce Thorpe*
- *Jay and Cheryl Louison in honor of our children and grandchildren*
- *Donald Lutz in loving memory of Lois Lutz*
- *Mike and Emilie Meyer in loving memory of Marvin L. and Marilyn P. Meyer
and Lois Lutz*
- *Stan and Pat Meyer in loving memory of Wilbur and Ilene Meyer, Shelley Ambriole,
Dave and Joan Sprunger*
- *Mike and Kathy Nahrwold in loving memory of Carl and Helen Nahrwold
and Bob Worden*
- *Donna Scheumann in loving memory of mom and dad Helen and Edward Scheumann*

- *Ralph and Donna Schumm in honor of our children and grandchildren*
**Neil and Susan Stoppenhagen in honor of our family*
**Diana Thorpe in loving memory of Bruce Thorpe and Lynn Dishong*
Edward and Helen Scheumann
**Seth and Natalie Wanner in loving memory of Marvin and Marilyn Meyer, Lois Lutz,*
Carolyn and James Johnson, Wilbur Wanner
**Calvin and Beverly Werling in loving memory of Andrew and Velma Werling*
**Doyle and Laura Werling in loving memory of Horman and Esther Werling*
**Gail Werling in loving memory of my husband Mick Werling and family that has*
gone to be with the Lord. Also, in honor of my children and grandchildren
**Pastor and DoRena Wirgau in honor of our godchildren; John Michael, Susan,*
Johannes and Donovan

The Altar Guild committee wishes to thank everyone for their Poinsettia orders. Please plan to pick up your plants after the 9:00 am Christmas Day Service. Thank you

