



Love

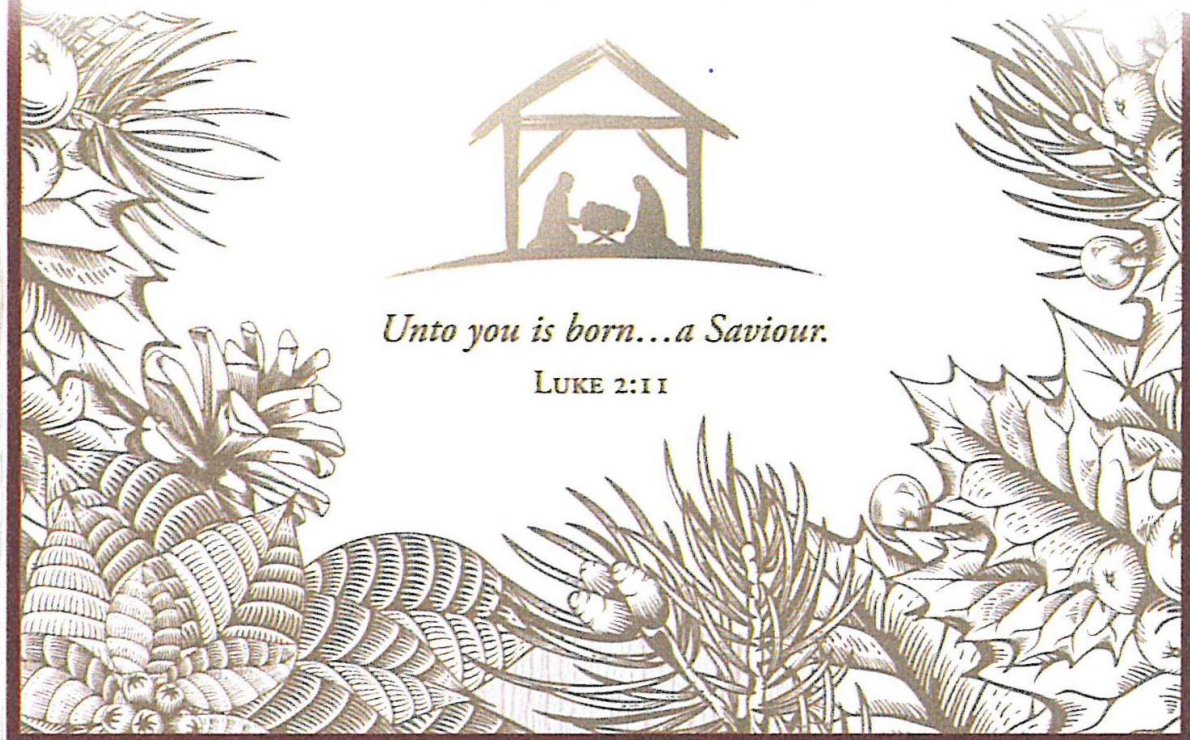
came at

CHRISTMAS.



Unto you is born...a Saviour.

LUKE 2:11





+ Nativity Of Our Lord: December 24 +

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (LSB 386, “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” (LSB 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

REGARDING COMMUNION

Jesus was born in a town called “house of bread” (Bethlehem) and laid in a feeding trough (a manger) where the livestock normally found their grain. Little surprise then that Jesus spoke of himself as “the bread who came down from heaven” (John 6:41) and as “a grain of wheat falling into the earth” (John 12:24)! Christmas is the celebration of the Eternal Son Jesus, God of God and Light of Light, taking on flesh and dwelling among us so that we behold in him the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Our word “Christmas” simply means *Christ’s Mass* and reminds us that Jesus is still present among us in body and blood through the sacred gifts of bread and wine. In this vein, Luther once said: “Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay himself.” May we come to Christ’s manger (the Altar) humbled in repentance for all that is wrong in our lives so that we may receive his gracious meal for forgiveness and renewal. ***Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder***

prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.

If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion, please let Pastor or an Elder know.

Liturgical Color:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church such as Christmas Eve

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

Taper Candle Lighting

Fifteen minutes or less prior to the start of tonight's service, please light your candle and place it in one of the sandboxes in the chancel—making sure there's some space between it and the others and that it's not too close to the sides! You may use the side doors to the chancel (ramp or steps) as well as the railing steps by the baptismal font—plus, there is also a sandbox on the pew level. Make that lighting and placing moment a time of hopeful prayer and thankful joy for the light shining in the darkness! Your candle and all the others will give light to the chancel throughout the evening's service. **Those running late will have a chance to do so during "Silent Night."**

Prelude

Pastoral Welcome

Please rise (when invited to do so) and turn to face the entrance to the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" #379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!

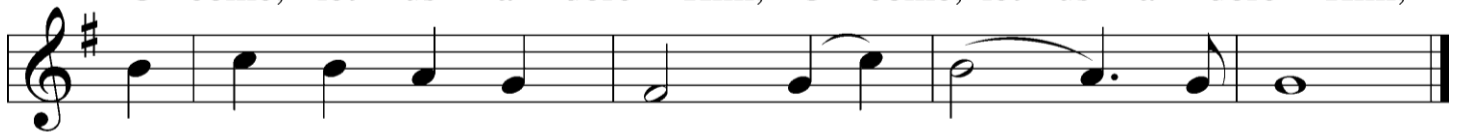


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection

P Holy and gracious God,

C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

Silence for reflection.

P We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.

C Amen.

The Gospel is read from the front of the congregation as a reminder that Christmas is the celebration of the Word taking on flesh and dwelling among us (John 1:14).

Gospel of the Incarnation..... John 1:1-5, 9-14

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **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. Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Jesse Tree Symbol

(Those who did not have a chance to light a candle earlier may come forward and do so while the carol is being sung.)

Nativity Hymn..... "Silent Night" #363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



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.

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Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 7:10-14

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn..... "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" #377

(Congregation vs. 1, 2, 4, Soloists v. 3)



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, All for to see the new - born King.
men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

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Epistle Reading 1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be

the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise if able

Proclamation Hymn *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”* #358 (1-3)



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



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



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.

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Gospel of the Nativity **Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory

of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gloria Hymn..... "Angels We Have Heard on High" #368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Sermon..... “Present”

Duet..... “*While Shepherds Lately Knelt*”
(*Christoph Marsh, Vanessa Rodewald*)

Please rise.

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.**

Prayer of the Church

P . . . Gracious God, receive our plea;

C **hear the prayers to You we bring, Father, Spirit, newborn King.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate this day, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Offertory Hymn....."O Little Town of Bethlehem" #361

(Congregation vs. 1, 2, 4, Soloists v. 3)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.

“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name:

Sanctus Hymn “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” #393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into time and space as You had promised. He has borne our sin and become our Savior. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we ask, O Lord, that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Gather us together with all Your saints on that day when we join them at the eternal banquet, which we anticipate in this foretaste of the feast to come. To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming again as the perfect judge. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

The Words of our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei Hymn "Lamb of God" #550

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.

Communion Hymn *“Come Run with Me to Bethlehem”*

(Rudolph E. Kurz, 1935-2007)

From Heaven’s realms to earth He came,
 Through Mary’s virgin womb.
 True mortal now, yet God the same,
 He came to rend the tomb!
 To earth, He came! To earth, He came!
 Through Mary’s virgin womb!

In Bethlehem, come bend the knee!
 Come wonder at the sight!
 No eye before did ever see
 God dressed in humble might.
 Come now and see! Come, Christ now see!
 Our Savior born this night!

Come, run with me to Bethlehem
 To our Creator see,
 For He has come to Bethlehem
 In all humility.
 In Bethlehem! In Bethlehem!
 Is God's Epiphany!

Communion Hymn *"Still, Still, Still"* (6pm)
 (Gary Moege-Guitar)

Vocal Solo *"What Songs Were Sung"* (6pm)
 (Christoph Marsh)

Communion Hymn *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* (6pm)
 (Gary Moege-Guitar)

Communion Hymn *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear", #366*



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
 Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Instrumental Hymns

Stand

Post Communion Canticle

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Collect

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
- C** Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, we may also come to the fullness of His holy joy here and now and into eternity
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

- P** The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and fill you with Christmas peace and joy, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn..... *“Joy to the World” #387*



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.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude

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Attendance Last Saturday: 37

Attendance Last Sunday: 72

Attendance Midweek: 44

Total Offering: \$4,282.70

Missions: \$0.00

Home Use: \$3,797.70

Benevolences: \$485.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Jack Easterwood, Willie Crespo, Caleb Thomas
MusiciansJerrode Marsh, Gary Moege, (6pm), Rich Vanderburgh (10pm)
Vocals..... Vanessa Rodewald and Christoph Marsh (6pm)
Altar Committee.....Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Mary Creswell,
Lisa Gulick, Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills,
Flower Committee Eunice Cobb (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

Sunday		<i>Christmas Day</i>
	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Monday		<i>Office Closed-Christmas Day Holiday</i>
Tuesday		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i> <i>Pastor's Vacation Day</i>
	7:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Friday		<i>Cindy's Vacation Day</i>
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Service/Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day/Holy Communion
Monday		<i>Office Closed-New Year's Holiday</i>

Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed on December 26 for the Christmas Holiday and January 2 for the New Year's Holiday.

Pastor Joel will be on vacation on January 2 and 3. Cindy Smith will be on vacation December 30.

Thank You

Wilma Gertz would like to wish Pastor Joel and her church family a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Thank you for all the cards, calls and visits. God bless you.

Cindy Smith would like to thank everyone for the Christmas cards, gifts, goodies. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pastor Joel expresses his deep gratitude for all who have shared words, cards, and gifts with him. He is humbly appreciative for all of the kindnesses in Christ!

Shawn and Beryl Lindley would like to say “thank you” to everyone for their generous gifts and cards for Christmas. Blessings for the New Year.

Prayers

Rejoicing with Colin and Paige Hart at the arrival of their son, Henry Lawrence Hart, born on December 18, 2022. May Christ, born to Mary and Joseph, bless their growing family in Him!

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Holli Burge, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Don Hillsman, Don Hillsman, Jr., Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter and Chance Hillsman.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you’re feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Worship Services

Livestream Service will be for Christmas Eve—NOT Christmas Day.

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday’s Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Christmas Eve/New Year’s Eve—By using the seasonal envelopes (and those not designated elsewhere), the special offerings will go to the local Food Center.

Christmas Day Service will be held on the regular Sunday time **at 10:30 a.m.** Invite others and join us for a carol service and celebration of Holy Communion! **There will be no livestream.**

Sunday School and Christian Education

There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day.

There will be no Bible Study on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Wednesday Bible Study—We are just starting to read and discuss our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. **Join us in the conference room from 10:30 a.m. to noon** for this biblical journey together! **We will keep meeting through the end of the year and unless the weather is bad or no one shows up.**

Fellowship

Exercise Class happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith. **Exercise will not meet until January 4, 2023.**

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff. **Cards will not meet until January 5, 2023.**

The Quilting Group meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker. **Quilting will not be meeting again until January 10, 2023.**

This & That

Offering Envelopes—The company we order our contribution envelopes from has said that due to supply chain shortages & staffing issues our 2023 envelopes are not done as of December 15, 2022. The sales staff is asking the production crew to expedite our order but the soonest it will be here is the end of December. It is very likely we will not receive the envelopes until sometime in January. I will get them out to everyone as soon as I get them—Teresa Hillsman.

Ongoing thanks to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

2022 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-D) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Alan Miller (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

Caleb Thomas (last name begins S-Z) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com

Poinsettias

Cody Droege

Andy Droege-her husband

Galen and Eunice Cobb

Gerald and Velma Cobb-Galen's parents

Hubert and Ruby Brunkhorst (Hemme)-Eunice's parents

Duane and Rebecca Limback

To the Glory of God

Melvin Theroff

Pris Callison-his wife

Richard and Peggy Hoyer

James Petersen-Peggy's dad

Alan and Lorraine Miller

Robert and Joanne Miller-Alan's parents

Darrell and Alice Carlson-Lorraine's parents, Curtiss Carlson-Lorraine's brother

Sue Cottrill

John-her husband, Laurence and Marie McMullin-her parents

Pete and Virginia Cottrill-her in-laws, Irvin Lee Cottrill-brother-in-law

Schumaker Family

Our family and friends that have passed away

Larry and Karen Haase

To the Glory of God

Darlene Laubenstein

To the Glory of God

Bill and Pat Brasel

Clay Epperson-their grandson

Anonymous

Pastor Joel, The Elders, The Church Council, Mary Martha Guild Officers

Thank you for your service



Have a

Merry Christmas

BY: 365GREETINGS.COM

This Christmas Day,
Remember His way.
It's Jesus' day,
For He has come.

How He spoke,
The Words of God,
And deliver the message,
Sent from above.

To love each other,
And care for each other,
This is a command,
Bestowed on us all.

We will be blessed,
If we do what He says,
Not only today,
But each and every day.

Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com

Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.