

Bethany Lutheran Church



Christmas Day

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2022

9:30 AM

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship. Here are some things to remember as we are gathered together today:

Before worship, talk to God! (see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another; and if you're a visitor, please stop by the Connections table before you leave today and capture the QR codes for more information.

Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

"Carols of Christmas"

Trumpets & Piano

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE: *"Joy to the World"*

LSB 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we praise You for so wonderfully creating us
and, even more so, for so mercifully restoring us in Christ.

People: **Your Son came to share in our humanity and weakness
that we might share in His glory and life.
Receive now our thanks for we have come to welcome Him
and to adore Him, Christ the King.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *"I Wonder as I Wander"*

Vocal Solo

~ ad. John Jacob Niles

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Lord of life, in Your Son, You have taken on our flesh
that You might redeem us from our lost condition.

People: **Incarnate Savior,**
we confess that our very nature is fallen and depraved.
We have not drawn near to You,
we have not always held Your teaching close to our heart,
and we have failed to love You as passionately
as we love the things of this world.
You were born to heal us.
Your infant hands
will soon enough be pierced for our transgressions.
So forgive us our sins anew we pray;
and send us Your Spirit that we might cradle You in our hearts
and herald Your coming into our world. Amen.

Leader: Through the grace of God the Father, this Babe, the Son of Mary,
has been born to give you life.
I have been sent here to bring you good news of great joy:
God's favor rests on you through the One born to save, Christ your Lord.

People: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: [adapted from St. Ephraim of Syria's Christ prayer (AD 306-373)]

Leader: This celebration of Your birth resembles You, Lord, because it brings joy
to all humanity. The high and lowly, elderly and young alike rejoice in
Your day. This feast is celebrated from generation to generation. Kings
and emperors pass away, and the festivals to commemorate them soon
lapse. But Your day will be heralded until the end of time. This day is a
pledge of peace. For at Your birth heaven and earth were reconciled, for
You came from heaven to earth on that day and You forgave our sins and
wiped away our guilt. You are light for the blind; a cup of living water for
parched souls; and You are the bread of life for those who hunger for
righteousness. In the winter when trees are bare, You give us the most
succulent fruit of the Spirit. And in December when seeds are hidden in
the soil, the staff of life springs forth from the virgin's womb.



1 "Glo-ry be to God on high!"— This is now our joy-ful cry.
2 Je - sus Christ, the Fath-er's Son,— Sole-be-got - ten, ho - ly One,



Peace to all who live on earth,— Grace and fa - vor for new birth.
Born on earth from realms on high,— Born true man for us to die,



You we praise and glo-ri-fy,— Wor - ship You, O Lord most high.—
Lamb of God, You take a-way— This world's sin: Grant peace we pray.—



Gra-cious Fa-ther, heav'n - ly King, To Your name a - lone we sing:
With the Spir - it, You a - lone Are most high, O God the Son,



Praise the glo - ry of Your name, Now and ev - er - more the same!
And the Fa-ther, God a - bove. Praise we now Your glo-rious love.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger
who announces the good news, "All is well."

He brings the good news,
announces salvation,
and tells Zion that its God rules as king.

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices
and shout together joyfully.
When the LORD brings Zion back,
they will see it with their own eyes.
Break out into shouts of joy, ruins of Jerusalem.
The LORD will comfort His people.
He will reclaim Jerusalem.
The LORD will show His holy power to all the nations.
All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. – GW®

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: *Hebrews 1:1-6*

In the past God spoke to our ancestors at many different times and in many different ways through the prophets. In these last days he has spoken to us through His Son. God made His Son responsible for everything. His Son is the One through whom God made the universe. His Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of God's being. He holds everything together through His powerful words. After He had cleansed people from their sins, He now holds the honored position—the one next to the majestic God the Father on the heavenly throne.

The Son has become greater than the angels since He has been given a name that is superior to theirs. God never said to any of His angels,

“You are my Son.
Today I have become your Father.”

And God never said to any of His angels,

“I will be His Father,
and He will be My Son.”

When God was about to send His firstborn Son into the world, He said,

“All of God's angels must worship Him.” – GW®

HYMN:

"What Child Is This"

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was already with God in the beginning.

Everything came into existence through Him. Not one thing that exists was made without Him.

He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity.

The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it.

God sent a man named John to be His messenger. John came to declare the truth about the light so that everyone would become believers through his message. John was not the light, but he came to declare the truth about the light.

The real light, which shines on everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into existence through Him. Yet, the world didn't recognize Him. He went to His own people, and His own people didn't accept Him. However, He gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in Him. These people didn't become God's children in a physical way—from a human impulse or from a husband's desire to have a child. They were born from God.

The Word became human and lived among us. We saw His glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with His only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth.

(John declared the truth about Him when he said loudly, "This is the person about whom I said, 'The One who comes after me was before me because He existed before I did.'")

Each of us has received one gift after another because of all that the Word is. Laws were given through Moses, but kindness and truth came into existence through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the One who is closest to the Father's heart, has made Him known.

– GW®

SERMON HYMN: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* LSB 384

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for-ev-er bless-ed, When the vir-gin,
 gan to be, He is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
 He the source, the end-ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav-ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 have been, And that fu-ture years shall see
 deem-er, First re-vealed His sa-cred face
 Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.
 Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

SERMON: *"One Little Word"*

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - 'ning to de -
to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.

CONFESSION OF CHRISTMAS FAITH:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
who in loving kindness sent a Savior for me.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
announced by angels, worshipped by shepherds and adored by wise men.
He came to suffer, die, rise again and give me life.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.
By whose power the Christ child was born anew within my heart.
He binds me together in faith with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ,
with whom I kneel before the manger until, with all people,
I bow before Christ and confess him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER OF OUR LORD: *(Tune: Away in a Manger)*

**Our Father in Heaven, all praise to Your name:
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same.
By mortals and angels, come Lord reign alone:
Oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, forgive us, we pray;
In times of temptation, Your guidance be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

+ *Holy Communion* +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Leader: The newborn Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up, for to us a Savior is born.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: With angels and shepherds we thank the coming of our God.

Leader: Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth,

People: You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

Leader: You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

**People: When we turned away, and our love failed,
Your love remained steadfast.**

Leader: You delivered us from captivity, made a covenant to be our God,
and spoke to us through Your prophets.

**People: You love us so much that You gave Your only Son,
Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.**

Leader: As the angels sang glory to You in the highest, and peace to Your people
on earth, so with Your Church on earth and the company of heaven, we
praise Your name and join in their unending hymn:

**People: *(Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)*
Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh.
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!**

Leader: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room,

People: so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected.

Leader: As in the poverty of the stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of His suffering, death and resurrection, You gave birth to Your church.

People: You delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Leader: As Your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago,

People: so on the night in which He gave Himself up for us,

Leader: He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, gave it to His disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

People: When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples and said:

Leader: "Drink this, all of you; this is My blood of the covenant, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

People: And so, in remembrance of all Your gracious promises kept in Christ, in expectation of receiving Him who came to us at Bethlehem, once again, here as He comes to us in bread and wine, we offer ourselves to You in praise, thanksgiving and holiness of life.

Leader: And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith, as He comes to us in His holy supper.

People: By Your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
 one with each other,
 and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ comes in final victory,
 and we feast at His heavenly banquet table.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384

3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant-ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a-dore Him; An-gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa-ther, And, O Ho-ly

one ac-cord, Whom the voic-es of the proph-ets
 prais-es sing. Pow'rs, do-min-ions, bow be-fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing

Prom-ised in their faith-ful word. Now He shines, the long-ex-
 And ex-tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un-end-ing prais-es be, Hon-or, glo-ry, and do-

pect-ed; Let cre-a-tion praise its Lord
 si-lent, Ev-'ry voice in con-cert ring
 min-ion, And e-ter-nal vic-to-ry

Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.
 Ev-er-more and ev-er-more.
 Ev-er-more and ev-er-more. A-men.

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

LSB 621

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,

For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the

scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358

3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You
 15 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, Who un - to

sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 are, so poor and small, That You should choose to
 us His Son has giv'n! While an - gels sing with


Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!
 pi - ous mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

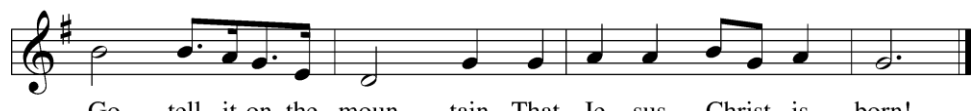
BENEDICTION

OUR CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388


Refrain



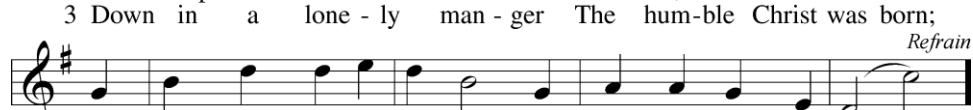
Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

POSTLUDE: “Toccata sur “Il est né, le divin Enfant” ~ Denis Bédard

Organ



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“Joy to the World” LSB 387

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“Glory Be to God on High” AGPS 99

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“What Child is This” LSB 370

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98. Tune: English, 16th cent.; setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901, alt.

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“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” LSB 657

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978. Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546.

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“Of the Father's Love Begotten” LSB 384

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; tr. John M. Neale, sts. 1-4; tr. Henry Williams Baker, st. 5.

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V. Text and music: Public domain.

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt. Tune: *Picardy*, French, 17th cent.

Text and Tune: Public Domain.

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche lieder*, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

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“Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, stanzas, alt.

Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960. Text and music: Public domain

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