

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

8:00 & 9:30 AM

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship.

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.

If You're a Visitor, let us get to know you.

Scan the QR Code here:



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 *Nursery* across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You are then able to return to church and 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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 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!

INVOCATION:

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Beloved in the Lord!

Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father,
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Moment for silent reflection.)

Leader: O almighty God, Merciful Father,
People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins.
To those who believe in Jesus Christ,
He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3*

I will find joy in the LORD.
I will delight in my God.
He has dressed me in the clothes of salvation.
He has wrapped me in the robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom with a priest's turban,
like a bride with her jewels.
Like the ground that brings forth its crops
and like a garden that makes the seed in it grow,
so the Almighty LORD will make righteousness and praise
spring up in front of all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not remain silent.
For Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until its righteousness shines like the dawn
and its salvation burns brightly like a torch.
The nations will see your righteousness.
All kings will see your glory.
You will be given a new name
that the LORD will announce.
Then you will be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD,
a royal crown in the hand of your God. – GW ®

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *Galatians 4:4-7*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. – ESV ®

CHRISTMAS GLORIA: *"Glory Be to God on High"* AGPS 99

(Tune: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")

**"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, worship You, O Lord most high.
Gracious Father, heav'nly King, to Your name alone we sing:
Praise the glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!**

**Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, Sole-be-gotten, Holy One,
Born on earth from realms on high, born true man for us to die,
Lamb of God, You take away, this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone, are most high, O God the Son,
And the Father, God above, Praise we now Your glorious love.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 2:22-40*

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. – ESV ®



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

SERMON: “Adopted”



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
 5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a
 6 He is the key and He the door To bless - ed



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
 mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No
 par - a - dise; The an - gel bars the way no more. To



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.
 tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.
 God our prais - es rise, To God our prais - es rise.

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.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *(to Confession of Faith)*

(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!**

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!*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Leader: Friends in Christ, lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promises to hear us.
*God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us,
Your needy children on earth,
and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us
and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word
and the fervent love shown forth in our lives.
Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living
whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned.
Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *May Your kingdom come to us and expand.
Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded
and bound in the devil's kingdom
to know Jesus Christ, Your Son,
by faith that the number of Christians may be increased,
Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will,
both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things,
that our own wills may be crucified daily
and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will.
Into Your merciful hands we commend those heavy on our hearts
and minds, and all those in need praying, *Thy will be done.*
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: *Grant us our daily bread*, preserve us from greed and selfish chares,
and help us trust in Your to provide for all our needs.
Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: *Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us*
so that our hearts may be at peace
and may rejoice in a good conscience before You,
and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: *Lead us not into temptation*, O Lord,
but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh,
to turn from the world and its ways,
and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: O heavenly Father,
we pray that You would *deliver us from all evil* of both body and soul,
now and forever; Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Trusting, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us
we ask all of this in the name of Jesus who has taught us so to pray,

**People: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.
Amen.**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

POSTLUDE

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

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“Glory Be to God on High” AGPS 99

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“O Sing of Christ” LSB 362

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“Let All Together Praise Our God” LSB 389

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, sts. 1. 3-7;
tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, st. 2, alt. Tune: Nicolaus Herman; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941.
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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Children's Sermon... Kayleigh Lopez

Acolyte & Crucifer 8:00...

Usher Team 8:00... Team 1

Keyboard... Kevin Bowers

Liturgist... John Alwood

Acolyte & Crucifer 9:30...

Usher Team 9:30... Team 4

Artist in Residence... Blake Flattley

Preacher... Pastor Mark Siegert