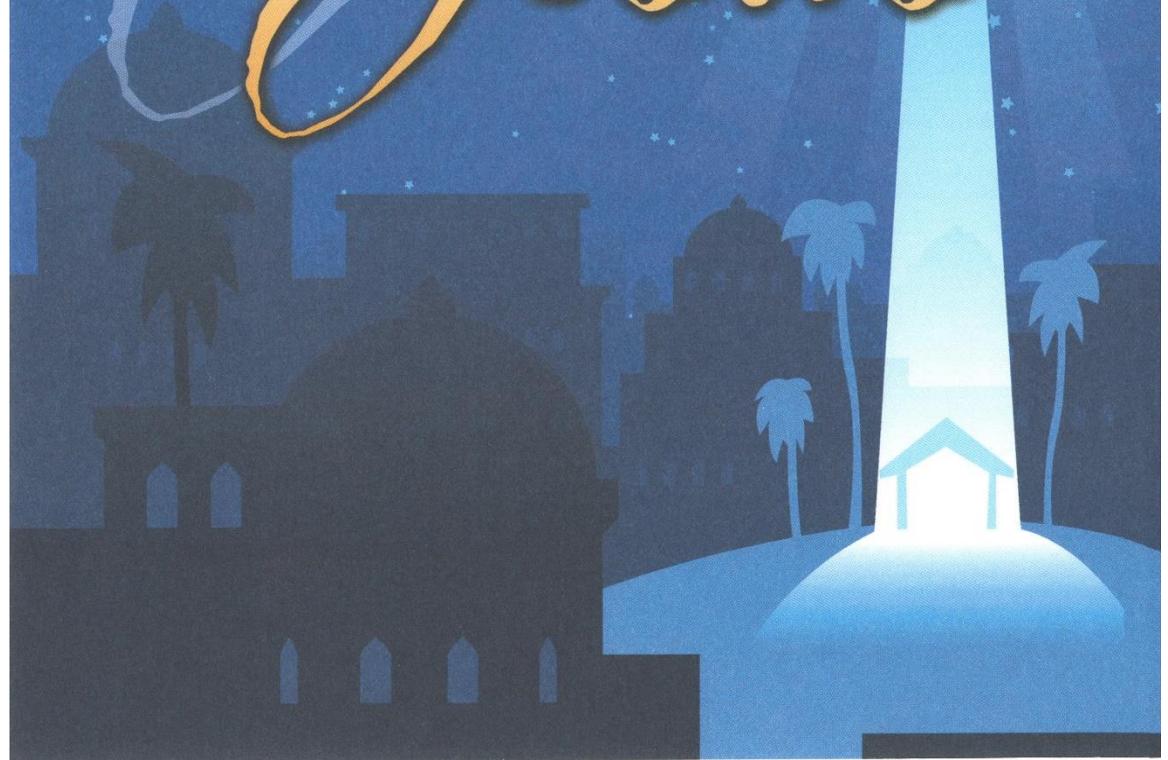


Come, Thou  
Long-Expected

*Jesus*



**Christmas Eve- 3:00 & 5:00 pm**

**December 24, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

**PROCESSIONAL 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!

**WELCOME**

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

*(Children, please ring your bell when it's your turn to speak.)*

Leader: Hear the holy angels singing "Glory be to God on high!"  
All: **To the world their song is bringing joy and peace that will not die!**  
Leader: Let all children sing and chime:  
**Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!**  
All: **To that holy Child be given all our lives though weak and small,**  
Leader: Then with Jesus in us living, we will show His love to all:  
All: **Let all children sing and chime:**  
**Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!**  
Leader 1: Sweetest song of this bright season is the one glad heart's compose:  
All: **Jesus is the joy and reason for this peace His birth bestows;**  
Leader 1: Let all children sing and chime:  
**Children & Parents: Peace and Joy! It's Christmas time!**

**CHRISTMAS GLORIA:**      **"Glory Be to God on High"**      AGPS 99  
(Tune: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")

*(Children, please ring your bell to the music.)*

"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.

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

**Leader:** Glorious God in the highest heaven,  
we confess that we allow the joy of Christmas  
to fade and flee all too quickly.

**People:** **Unlike the shepherds,  
at times we find it hard to be in awe  
over Your presence and promises.  
Unlike the angels,  
we have on occasion kept Your praise to ourselves.**

**Leader:** Like the townsfolk of Bethlehem,  
often we determine that there is no room in our lives for You,  
and perhaps at best, we'll offer a small,  
unoccupied corner of our heart as a place for You to dwell.

**People:** **Father, we have sinfully managed to get wrapped up in  
ourselves. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
who entered this world in human flesh  
and was born this night to live and die for us  
and, thus, become our brother, our Savior,  
our Lord and our Friend.  
Amen.**

**Leader:** I am here with Good News of great joy!  
For us, Christ was born.  
Through Him, our sins are forgiven.  
In Him, our lives are centered in the miracle of Immanuel.  
God is with us.

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: “A Great and Mighty Wonder”**

LSB 383

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 7:10-14***

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign. It can be anything you want.”

But Ahaz answered, “I won’t ask; I wouldn’t think of testing the LORD.”

“Listen now, descendants of David,” Isaiah said. “Isn’t it enough that you try the patience of mortals? Must you also try the patience of my God? So the Lord Himself will give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel [God Is With Us]. – GW ®

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER: (*Text: Martin Luther AD 1483-1546*)**

Leader: Oh, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,

People: **prepare a bed soft undefiled,  
a holy shrine within my heart,  
that You and I need never part. Amen.**

HYMN:

**“Holy Child within the Manger”**

WOV 638

1 Ho — ly Child with — in the man — ger, long a —  
go yet ev — er near; come as friend to ev —'ry  
stran — ger, come as hope for ev — 'ry fear.  
As You lived to heal the bro — ken, greet the  
out — cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un—  
spo — ken, teach us now where you are found.

2. Once again we tell the story how your love for us was shown,  
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.
3. Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,  
So we see in ev'ry stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living, give us strength to live as you,  
That our hearts might be forgiving, and our spirits strong and true.

## THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: *Matthew 1:18-25*

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way: His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly.

Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. He took Mary to be his wife. He did not have marital relations with her before she gave birth to a son. Joseph named the child Jesus.— GW ®

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City"

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.  
stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

## MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY: “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

LSB 388

*(Children, ring your bells during the refrain.)*

*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.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Leader: Lord, let Your goodness appear to us so we, made in Your image, may conform ourselves to Your likeness.

People: **Lord, You have come to us as a small child, but You have brought us the grandest gift of all, the gift of God's eternal love.**

## **CONFSSION 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, worshiped 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 Pauline at:*

*psvolos@bethanylutheran.org*

*or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

*(please remain seated)*

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:**

***“Angels We Have Heard on High”***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo

***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

***“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”***

Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***“Away in a Manger”***

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

## THE ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS: *Luke 2:1-20*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. – KJV ®

## HYMN:

## "Silent Night"

LSB 363

## THE BLESSING:

*(Children, please ring your bell when it's your turn to speak.)*

Leader: The children from each land and race shall gaze upon the Christ-child's face like theirs, but shining divine grace

**Children of God:** **For He is the true light!**

Leader: Then go His birth to tell and sing, the shepherd's message echoing, as angels this good news to bring

**Children of God:** **'Tis love that's come all right!**

Leader: Like mother with the child in arms, like father who the babe disarms, like Magi who shall bring their charms

**Children of God:** **In Jesus Christ delight!**

Leader: So cast away all worldly weight and make your heart an offering great, and at His manger celebrate

**Children of God:** **Our ✕ Savior's born this night!**

**CLOSING HYMN:****"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.

**POSTLUDE:****Brass & Piano****COPYRIGHT/ STREAMING PERMISSIONS:**

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"O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

Text: John F. Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley.

Tune: John F. Wade; setting: *The Hymnal* 1940. Text and music: Public domain.

"Glory Be to God on High" AGPS 99

Text: Bradford Scott

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"Holy Child within the Manger" WOV 638

*Carol at the Manger*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950.

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"A Great and Mighty Wonder" LSB 383

Text: Germanus, c. 634-c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599. Text and music: Public domain.

"Once in Royal David's City" LSB 376

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76; setting: Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929.

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: ©1957 Novello & Company Limited, London, UK. Reprinted by Permission. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"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

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – Charles Wesley

Public domain

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Text: Phillips Brooks / Tune: Lewis H. Redner. Public domain.

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364

Text: *Little Children's Book*, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1-2; *Vineyard Songs*, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959. Text and tune: Public domain.

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"Silent Night" LSB 363

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young. Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber. Text and music: Public domain.

"Joy to the World" LSB 387

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

Text and Tune: Public domain.



## **SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TONIGHT:**

Acolyte 5:00...Oliver Koehlinger

Crucifer 5:00...Henry Cerulle

Children's Message...Alissa Brege

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Organ/Piano 3:00...Kevin Bowers

Trumpet...Mara Widmann

Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann



**If You're a Visitor**, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.



### **Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion**

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 AM



**PLEASE NOTE:** The Church office will be closed December 25 and 26. We will also be closed on January 1 and 2.



Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

**Bethany Lutheran Church** and its Ministries are found at: [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

**Bethany Lutheran School** information can be found by visiting their website at: [www.bethanylutheran.org/school/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/)

**Bethany Preschool's** website: [www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/)

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>

## **DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!**

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.

- **A Special Request with Recognition\*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin.

For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**



- **A General Donation to the Altar Flower Fund** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

\*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be **printed in the Sunday bulletin** for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

**<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>**



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: