



Christmas Day Festival Worship

December 25, 2025

PRELUDE:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

~Setting: Jayne Southwick Cool

Piano & Trumpet

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379



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 adore Him, Christ the King.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Bethany Vocal Ensemble
~Paul Manz

CONFESSON 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 always 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.

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: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB 367

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scand - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
Now pro - claim Mes si - ah's birth.
Yon der shines the In - fant Light.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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®

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.

MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Ubi Caritas”

~Ola Gjeilo

Bethany Vocal Ensemble

CONFESSTION 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 Pauline at: psvolos@bethanylutheran.org
or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

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 and 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

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,
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - 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 -
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 -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
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.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

“What Child Is This”

LSB 370



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BLESSING:

Leader: Now the sweet Child of Bethlehem, put into Your hearts and the hearts of all men and women, His peace; the peace for which we sometimes seek so desperately, yet which He alone can give. May He help you to know one another better, to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Heavenly Father. May He awaken your hearts to the dawning of His day, enlighten you with love and gratitude for His goodness and reveal the brilliance of faith in all you do and say.

CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE: “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:

“Hark the Glad Sound”

~Aaron David Miller

Trumpet & Piano



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“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Setting: Jayne Southwick Cool

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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.

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Vocal Ensemble

Paul Manz

Tune: ©1987 Morningstar Music Publications/Birnamwood Publications. All rights reserved. ©1954 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Streamed by permission under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"In Dulci Jubilo" Vocal Ensemble

Arr. R. L. de Pearsall. Public domain.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" LSB 367

Text: James Montgomery, sts. 1-4; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, Salisbury, st. 5.

Tune: Henry T. Smart.

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.

"Ubi Caritas" Vocal Ensemble

Ola Gjeilo

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"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.

Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"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.

"What Child is This" LSB 370

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98.

Tune: English, 16th cent.; setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901, alt.

Text and music: Public domain.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47; setting: William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

Text and Tune: Public domain

"Hark the Glad Sound"

Setting: Aaron David Miller

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Vocal Ensemble...Lily Alwood, Trinity Alwood, Noah Freeman, Dan Wessler, Molly
Wessler, Soren Widmann 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.



PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, December 26th and Wednesday, January 1st.



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

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: 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: