



OUR SUBSTITUTE AND SACRIFICE

The Sunday after Christmas

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, NE

December 26, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mrs. Megan Richert

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THE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Come, your Hearts and Voices Raising [(CW21) **362**/(CW 93) **42**

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.

3 Jacob's Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

4 From the bondage that oppressed us
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
When, O Christ, we come addressing
Thanks to you and highest praise!

6 Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,
From your lowly manger cheer us.
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of us all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord



A - men.

Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis

Musical notation for the first system of 'Gloria in Excelsis', featuring a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Musical notation for the second system of 'Gloria in Excelsis', featuring a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics, and the bass staff contains a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, ▶"

we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

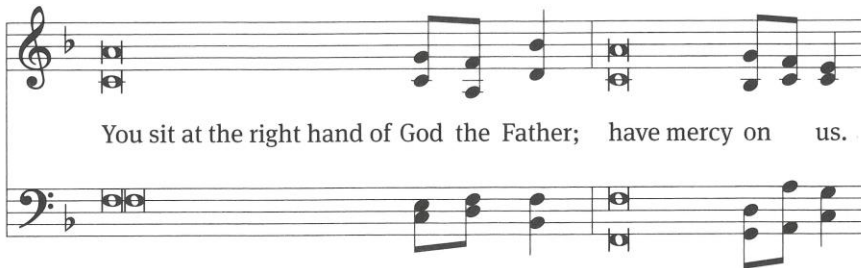
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

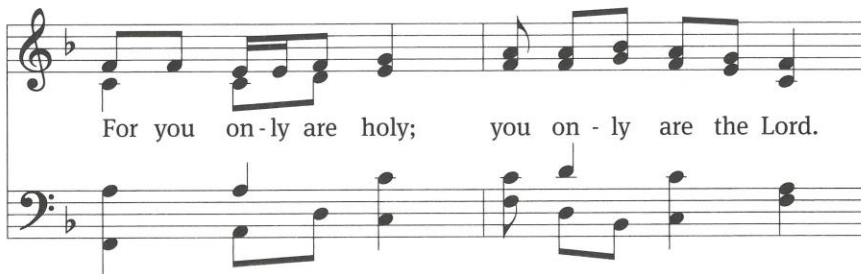
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.



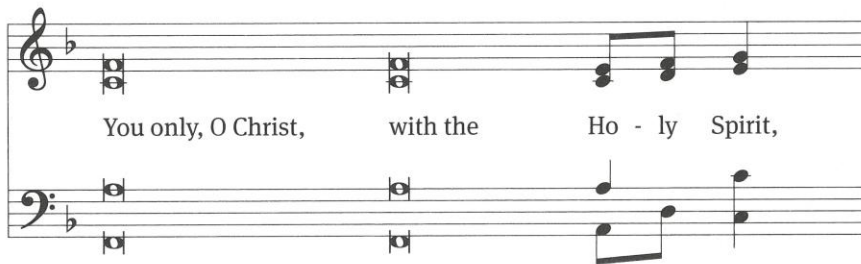
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.



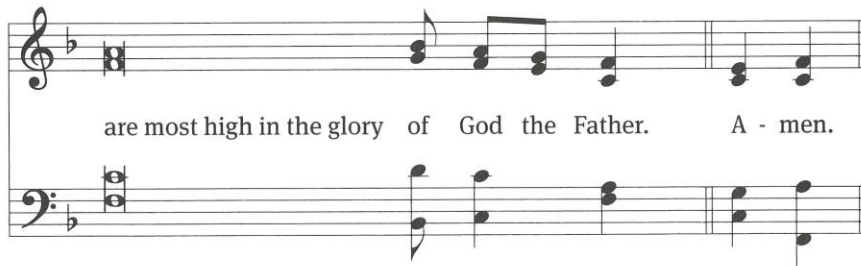
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.



You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4–9

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.

He wakes me up morning by morning.

He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned.

⁵The LORD God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious.

I did not turn back.

⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

⁷The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.

I know that I will not be put to shame.

⁸The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me?

Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me?

Let him approach me.

⁹Look, the LORD God will help me.

Who then can declare me guilty?

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.
A moth will consume them. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10–18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.
Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³And again:

I will trust in him

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Luke 2:41–52

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people. (EHV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Great and Mighty Wonder | (CW 21) **349**/(CW93) **36**

1 A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:
A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.

Refrain:

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth."

2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
Refrain

3 While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
Refrain

4 Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise his scepter, Decreeing endless peace.
Refrain

SERMON

1

Stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

**He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, Father in heaven, in the fullness of time you sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to gather from all nations of the earth a redeemed people.

We give you praise and thanks for having so graciously provided for us and for our salvation.

We thank you that through faith in your Son Jesus Christ we have received adoption as children, that we may call you "Abba Father".

In Jesus, we are assured that you are most truly our loving Father and that we are your own dear children.

O Father most loving, grant that we who were under the yoke of sin, may in Christ be guarded against the temptations of the devil and the world around us. Empower us by your Spirit to perform works in keeping with repentance, and to faithfully do your will with a glad heart.

Let your grace rest upon us that we may be strong in the Spirit, filled with wisdom and grow in favor with you and our neighbor.

Let the brightness of your glory shine upon all who feel the need of your almighty aid. For our sick, our wounded, our hurt, our troubled, our fallen, and our absent fellow believers we

pray. Give to them whatever they may need: soundness of body, strength of faith, or security of hope.

In Christ grant them all the assurance of your salvation.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Hear us, O Father, in these our petitions. Direct and govern our hearts that we may be preserved in the one, holy, Christian faith unto life everlasting. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

OFFERING (CW21 343 v. 1)

I stand beside your manger here,
O Jesus, life from heaven.
The gifts I bring as I draw near
Are what to me you've given:
My spirit, courage, mind, and heart—
Take all I am, take ev'ry part;
In mercy let it please you.

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

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THE PREFACE AND PRAISE (sung to Angels We Have Heard)

M May the Good Lord be with you
Lift your hearts to God in praise.

C **May the Lord be with you too**
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

In the Word of God made flesh
Great and wondrous mystery

**Now we see with vision fresh
God's abundant majesty
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

**Therefore with the church on earth
And the hosts of heav'n above
Let us praise His name, whose birth
Brings to us eternal love
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26]*

Holy Father, in the beginning, you spoke and created light. But we loved the darkness of sin and unbelief. When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be a light for those walking in darkness and in the shadow of death.

We praise you and give you thanks that Jesus, the eternal Word, became flesh and made his dwelling among us; that born of a woman, born under law, he lived without sin as our substitute; that as the Lamb of God, he suffered and died to take away the sin of the world; that he rose from death and lives forever to proclaim peace to all.

As the shepherds came to the manger, we now approach your altar with reverent joy. Here we find our Savior, Christ the Lord, who gives us his body and blood for forgiveness and peace. Through this meal, bring us life and light.

© Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**© Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25*

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✚ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✚ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *John 1:29*

(tune CW 53)

C **O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release;
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

From Heaven Above | (CW 21) 331/(CW 93) 38

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

4 "He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us his glory share.

5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us his own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christchild lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That you might share your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, though you created all, How weak you are, so poor and small,
That you should choose to lay your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases you to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That all the world's wealth, honor, might Are weak and worthless in your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

THANKSGIVING (Sung to God Rest Ye Merry CW 21 356)

All sing

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,
What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
And proudly bear His name
Who leads His thankful people forth
His promises to claim.**

Refrain:

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,**

Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

**Lord, let your servant go in peace,
Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work
Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race
As Light for all revealed.**

Refrain:

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

**Oh, praise to God the Father,
And praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spirit
Most blessed Three in One,
As 'twas, is now and e're shall be
While endless ages run!**

Refrain:

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

PRAYER

[M] We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

BENEDICTION (To Angels We Have Heard)

[M] May the good Lord bless and keep
Cause His face on you to shine

Look on you with favor deep
Granting you His peace divine.



Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice |(CW21) **332**/(CW 93) **64**

1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.

2 To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for he was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

4 Christ our Lord and Savior dear,
Bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion
Elders Meet

Monday: 10 :30 AM Bethel Women's Guild Meeting

Sunday: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM Choir Practice
Church Council Meets

Everyone Outreach is our Mission Festival seminar for this year. We would like as many members as possible to attend. January 22 Session 1 at Grace, January 23 Session 2 at Bethel. Please sign up online using this code, or on the paper signup sheet in the back of church.



Parish Status/Pastoral Needs Assessment (from District President Hirsch)

The servant/leadership of our congregations is asking for the thoughts of the brothers and sisters of our congregations at this time. This information will help our District President assist us in the task of asking the Lord for another pastor to serve us. Of course, we realize that the various parts of the body of Christ can have different observations or opinions. It is our privilege to work together under our head, which is Christ. God bless our labors together in Jesus' name.

You can access the survey online by clicking the link below. A paper version of the survey is also available in the narthex.

[Parish Status/Pastoral Needs Assessment Survey](#)

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Eph 1:18-23)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Co 4:4-7)



The link to the online form is too long to publish here so use the QR Code, or you can click on the link that will be sent out in the weekly email announcements, or fill out the paper form on the bureau in the entry..



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 50, Facebook live 6, clicks 25. Audio/YouTube .
Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given, 1,490.50, Hymnals 109.19. Christmas Eve:
Attendance: 90, FB Live 8, Clicks 21. Offerings: Operating 637.00, Periodicals 171.20.
Christmas Day: **To God be the glory!**

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