



W H E N T H E  
**L O R D**  
C O M E S N E A R

## **IN FLESH AND BLOOD**

Compline – Midweek Advent

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*December 8, 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 changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) the member connect tab, or scan this code.



## **SERVICE NOTES FOR TONIGHT**

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. They are also in "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**  
**Organist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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# COMPLINE

## OPENING DIALOG

**L** The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et  
night and peace at the last. **G** A -  
- - men. **L** It is good to give thanks to the  
Lord, **G** to sing praise to your name, O Most High,  
**L** to her - ald your love in the morn - ing, **G** your  
truth at the close of day. **L** Je - sus, re - mem - ber  
me when you come in - to your king - dom.  
**G** Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in -  
to your king - dom.

## HYMN

*Behold, a Branch Is Growing* | 360 (CW 21)

1 Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little flow'r In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

2 Isaiah had foretold it In words of promise sure,  
And Mary's arms enfold it, A virgin meek and pure.  
Through God's eternal will This child to her is given  
At midnight calm and still.

3 The shepherds heard the story Proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of glory, Was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped And in the manger found him,  
As angel heralds said.

4 This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people  
From earth's dark night of sin.

5 O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woes,  
O Savior, King of glory, Who conquered all our foes,  
Bring us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day.

## CONFESSION

*We prepare to meet our Lord by confessing our need for his mercy.*

**M** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**M** Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

***Silence for self-examination***

**M** Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**C** we have sinned against you

in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,  
and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us,

that we may rest in peace.

**M** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,  
and in him we are forgiven.

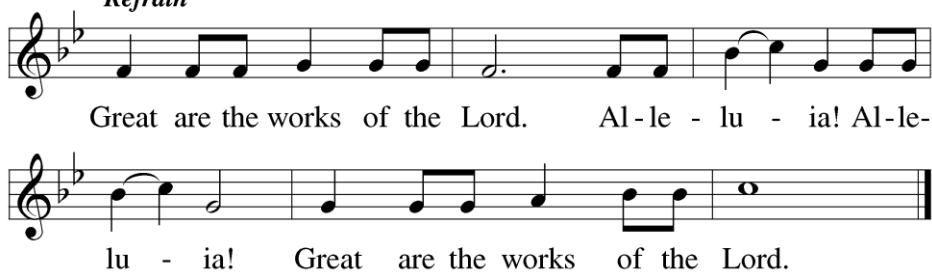
Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun  
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

**C** Amen.

## PSALM


45 (CW 93 pg 83)

*Refrain*



Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-  
lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



\*

My heart is stirred by a noble theme\*  
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,\*  
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;\*  
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;\*  
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

### ***Refrain***

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;\*  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;\*  
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;\*  
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, King of glory, you are the groom. We, the Church, are your bride. Keep us ever clothed in the robe of your righteousness so that when our time comes to be taken to the wedding banquet, we may sit beside you and enjoy the pleasures of your heavenly home; for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## **LESSONS**

### **Isaiah 7:10-14**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, <sup>11</sup>"Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above."

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz responded, "I will not ask. I will not test the LORD."

<sup>13</sup>So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

## John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**L** In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. **G** In - to your  
hands I com-mend my spir - it. **L** You have re-deemed me, O  
Lord, God of truth. **G** In - to your hands I com-mend my  
spir - it. **L** Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son (✠)  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it. **G** In - to your



## HYMN

*Peace Came to Earth* | (CWS 707) **330** (CW 21)

1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night  
When angels clove the sky with song and light  
And God embodied love and sheathed his might—  
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!

2 And who could be the same for having held  
The infant in their arms and later felt  
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—  
Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!

3 You show the Father none has ever seen,  
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,  
In bread and wine you visit us again—  
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

4 How else could I have known you, O my God!  
How else could I have loved you, O my God!  
How else could I embrace you, O my God!  
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!

*The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.*

## MEDITATION: Hebrews 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, 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) <sup>15</sup>and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. <sup>17</sup>For 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

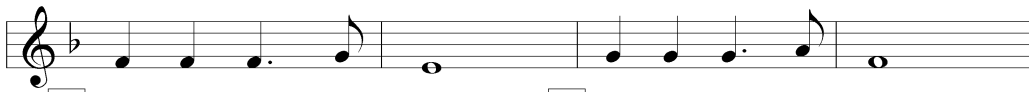


God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## OFFERING

## PRAYER

*spoken*



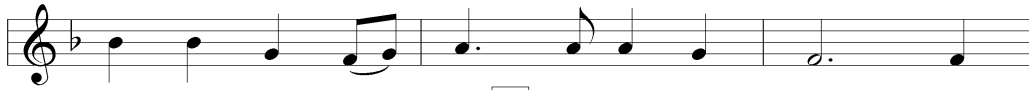
**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord. **G** Lis-ten to my cry.



**L** Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye. **G** Hide me



in the shad-ow of your wings. **L** In right-eous -



ness I shall see you. **G** When I a - wake, your



pres - ence will give me joy.



**G** Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal-lowed be your



name, your king - dom come, your will be done on



earth as in heav - en. Give us to-day our

dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as  
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us  
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from  
e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are  
yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.

**HYMN**

*Joy Has Dawned* | 352 (CW 21)

Joy has dawned upon the world,  
Promised from creation:  
God's salvation now unfurled,  
Hope for every nation.  
Not with fanfares from above,  
Not with scenes of glory.  
But a humble gift of love:  
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
With the songs of angels,  
As the mighty Prince of Life  
Shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place,  
Shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast,  
Vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb,  
 Gazing at the glory;  
 Gifts of men from distant lands  
 Prophecy the story.  
 Gold, a King is born today,  
 Incense, God is with us,  
 Myrrh, His death will make a way,  
 And by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven,  
 Given as a ransom,  
 Reconciling God and man,  
 Christ our mighty Champion.  
 What a Savior, what a Friend,  
 What a glorious mystery:  
 Once a babe in Bethlehem,  
 Now the Lord of history.

**GOSPEL CANTICLE/SONG OF SIMEON**

*Luke 2:29-32*

**L** Guide us wak-ing, O Lord, **G** and guard us sleep -

ing; **L** that a-wake we may watch with Christ **G** and a -

sleep we may rest in peace.

**G** In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser-vant now de -

part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal-  
 va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a  
 light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo-ry of your peo-ple  
 Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.

## BLESSING

**M** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit,  
 bless us and keep us.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

*Now the Light Has Gone Away* | 784 (CW 21)

- 1 Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,  
 Asking you to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.
- 2 Jesus, Savior, wash away All that I've done wrong today.  
 Make me ever more like you, Good and gentle, kind and true.
- 3 Let my near and dear ones be Safe with you eternally.  
 Oh, bring me and all I love To your happy home above.
- 4 Now my evening praise I give; You once died that I might live.  
 All your precious gifts are free—Oh, how good you are to me!
- 5 Ah, my best and kindest Friend, You will love me to the end.  
 Let me love you more and more, Always better than before.