



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

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*December 25, 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](http://bethelyork.com), member connect tab, or scan this code.



## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. It is 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**

**Worship Leader**  
**Pianist/Organist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Mr. Quinton Corwin

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# + ORDER OF SERVICE +

## OPENING DIALOG

*please stand, if able*



**M:** O Lord, o - pen my lips.



**C:** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



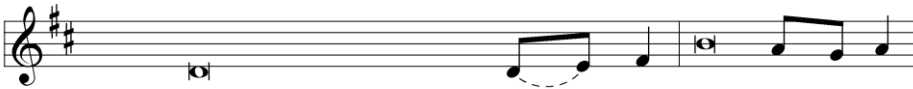
**M:** Has - ten to save me, O God.



**C:** O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

## OH, COME, LET US SING

*Psalm 95:1-7*



**M:** (Advent) Behold the \_\_\_\_\_ King comes: let us wor - ship him.  
(Christmas) Unto us the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.  
(Epiphany) The glory of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ is re - vealed: let us wor - ship him.  
(Lent) Behold the \_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God: let us wor - ship him.  
(Easter) The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ ris - en: let us wor - ship him.  
(Pentecost) The Spirit of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ fills the world: let us wor - ship him.  
(General) Praise be to God, the Father,  
the Son, and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.

**C:** Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **DIALOGUE OF PRAISE**

**[M]** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**[C]** **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the Heavens.**

**[M]** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

**[C]** **Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.**

**[M]** But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

**[C]** **For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.**

**[M]** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**[C]** **From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**[M]** "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness."

**[C]** **Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

**[M]** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

**[C]** **Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!**

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.

*Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.

*Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.

*Refrain*

**FIRST LESSON**

Exodus 33:18–23; 34:5–7

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." <sup>20</sup>He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup>The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup>It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

<sup>5</sup>The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, <sup>7</sup>maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE | **363**

1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

3 Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;  
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

## **SECOND LESSON**

Romans 8:31-32

<sup>31</sup>What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?  
<sup>32</sup>Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Galatians 4:4,5a

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

Sing (refrain from O Come, All Ye Faithful)

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>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 all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " <sup>16</sup>For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

***BE SEATED***

## **HYMN**

O Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly | **366**

1 O rejoice, all Christians, loudly,  
For our joys have now begun; Wondrous things our God has done.  
Tell abroad his goodness proudly,  
Who our race has honored thus, That he has befriended us.



*Refrain:*

Joy, oh, joy beyond all gladness, Christ has done away with sadness!  
Hence all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining!

2 See, my soul, your Savior chooses Poverty and weakness, too;  
In such love he comes to you.  
Neither crib nor cross refuses, All he suffers for your good  
To redeem you by his blood.

*Refrain*

3 Lord, how shall I thank you rightly? I am saved eternally  
By your life and death for me.  
Let me not forget it lightly But with all my heart believe,  
That from you I shall receive.

*Refrain*

4 Jesus, guard and guide your members; fill them with our boundless grace,  
Hear their prayers in ev'ry place.  
Fan to life faith's glowing embers; Give all Christians far and near  
Holy peace, a glad new year.

*Refrain*

## **SERMON**

*STAND*

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH - Luther's Explanation of The Second Article**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,  
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won  
me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with  
gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent  
suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom,  
and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness,  
just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M** On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C** **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

**M** What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

**C** **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

**M** In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

**C** **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M** As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

**C** **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

**OFFERING** *Sing as our gifts are presented*

**HYMN 358 v. 1, 5**

1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

5 Christ, to you, with God the Father, And O Holy Ghost,  
To thee hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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.

## HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High* | 346

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Refrain*

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

*Refrain*

## **LUKE 2** (read by all)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) <sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup> 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:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace,

Good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

## HYMN

## Let All Together Praise Our God | 355

1 Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;  
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,  
Who heav'n and earth did make.

4 He undertakes a great exchange, puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us his realm, his glory, and his name,  
His glory and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—A great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need,  
To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

## PRAYER FOR GRACE

☒ O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither

fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C Amen.**



**M:** Let us praise the Lord.



**C:** Thanks be to God.

**BLESSING**



**M:** The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C:** A - men.

**HYMN**

JOY TO THE WORLD | **353**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**REJOICE...** *for our Saviour is born!*

