

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“Rorate Coeli”

Divine Service - Setting One

December 22, 2024

Vol. 127-04

Processional Hymn

#356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

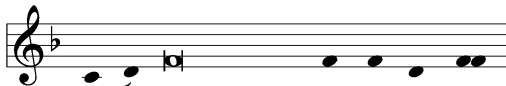
Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (sung responsively)



Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
 and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.
 The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,*
 and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.
Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end | of the world.*
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
 and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**
and to the Holy | Spirit;
*as it was in the be- | ginning,**
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Shower, O heavens, | from above,*
 and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;*
let the earth cause them | both to sprout.

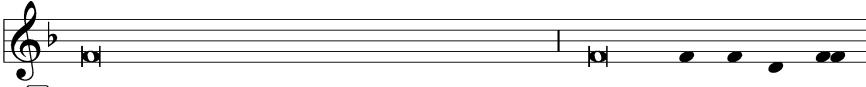
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



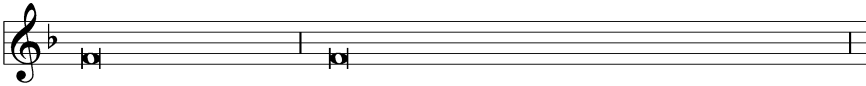
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



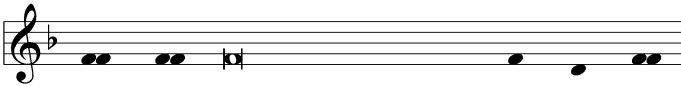
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

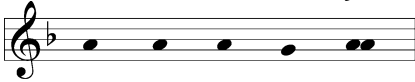


A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

#357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing

Carla Wiederbold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)

Sandy Avey, Dale Meyer

Gail Werling, Garrett Werling

Bryce Bowman, Ron Whitesel

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgan)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)

Sandra Flum (Susan Grafi's sister)

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Danielle Campbell, Amelia Phillips, Reese Springer, Allie Nabrwoold, Wendy Boehm, Destiny Laley, Shaeli Streeks*

We pray for protection: *Pastor and Mrs. Moebring's son Stephen in Israel.*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel


Offering

Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.


Preface



P The Lord be with you.



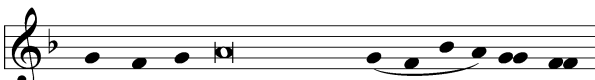
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

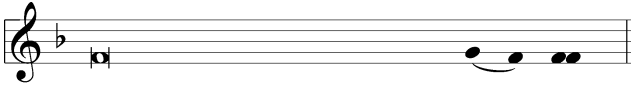
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

#928 Song of Hannah (*Refrain is sung twice Choir first then the Congregation*)
(The bold verses are sung by the congregation)



- ¹My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted | in the LORD.*
 My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in Your sal- | vation.
- ²There is none holy like the LORD; there is none be- | sides You; *
 there is no rock | like our God.

- ³**Talk no more so very | proudly,***
let not arrogance come | from your mouth;
- ⁴**for the LORD is a God of | knowledge,***
and by Him actions | are weighed.

Refrain

- ⁵The bows of the mighty are | broken,*
 but the feeble | bind on strength.
- ⁶Those who were full have hired themselves | out for bread,*
 but those who were hungry have ceased to | hunger.
- ⁷**The barren has borne | seven,***
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
- ⁸**The LORD kills and | brings to life,***
He brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
- ⁹The LORD makes poor and | makes rich; *
 He brings low and | He exalts.
- ¹⁰He raises up the poor | from the dust; *
 He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and
 inherit a seat of | honor.

Refrain

¹¹For the pillars of the earth | are the LORD's,*
and on them He has | set the world.

¹²He will guard the feet of His faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in
| darkness,*
for not by might shall a | man prevail.

¹³The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to | pieces;*
against them He will thunder in | heaven.

¹⁴The LORD will judge the ends | of the earth;*
He will give strength to His king and exalt the power of His a- |
nointed.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.*

Refrain

Text: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Tune: Paul J. Grime, 1958, Chant tone; (ref) Kurt E. von Kampen, 1960

Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

#933 My Soul Rejoices
#386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
#332 Savior of the Nations, Come

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Vicar Morgan Phillips
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm and Jerry Meyer
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Bethlehem Adult Choir
Acolytes	Volunteers
Crucifer	Matthew Rekeweg
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley, Dean Scheumann Peyton Laley, Jared Meyer, Kyle Patrick

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Kantor Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
Vicar Morgan Phillips	605-391-4770

Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
Christmas Break December 23-January 5 – NO SCHOOL		
MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Divine Service
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Divine Service

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

2025 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE and FLOWER CHART are now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services or donate flowers to be placed on the altar or hymn board table. Special announcements should be given to the church office. Thank you

2025 Offering Envelopes are now available. Please plan to pick up your box from the tables in the north hallway. Boxes should be in alphabetical order. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you

BOOK CLUB: Our next book club pick will be "The Things We Cannot Say" by Kelly Rimmer. *About the Book:* Slipping between Nazi-occupied Poland and the frenetic pace of modern life, Kelly Rimmer creates an emotional and finely wrought narrative. *The Things We Cannot Say* is an unshakable reminder of the devastation when truth is silenced...and how it can take a lifetime to find our voice before we learn to trust it. We will meet at Crimson House on Saturday, February 22nd at 8:00am.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTION FEE IS NOW DUE - If you currently receive the Lutheran Witness, please be sure to reimburse the church the yearly fee of \$25.00. Thank you

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

Offering December 15, 2024

Average weekly need	\$13,818
Home Fund Env.	\$9,958.78
Synod	65.15
Loose	706.50
Scholarship Fund	125.00
Sunday School	4.50
Improvement Fund	50.50
Endowment Fund	25.00
Music Fund	
Lutheran Witness	5.00
Funeral Taping	20.00
Fellowship Hall Rent	90.00
Memorials	<u>19,280.00</u>
Total	\$30,330.43

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance \$4,537.97

Next week bills due: \$5,000

Bills due two weeks: \$30,000

Savings Account Balance \$47,537.80

Borrowed from Savings: \$26,300

Operating Loan Debt: \$6,900

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday 169 / 140

Children's Service 185

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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

What are the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

The 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.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

What is John 1:1-8

- 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- 2. He was in the beginning with God.**
- 3. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.**
- 4. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**
- 5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- 6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**
- 7. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.**
- 8. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.**