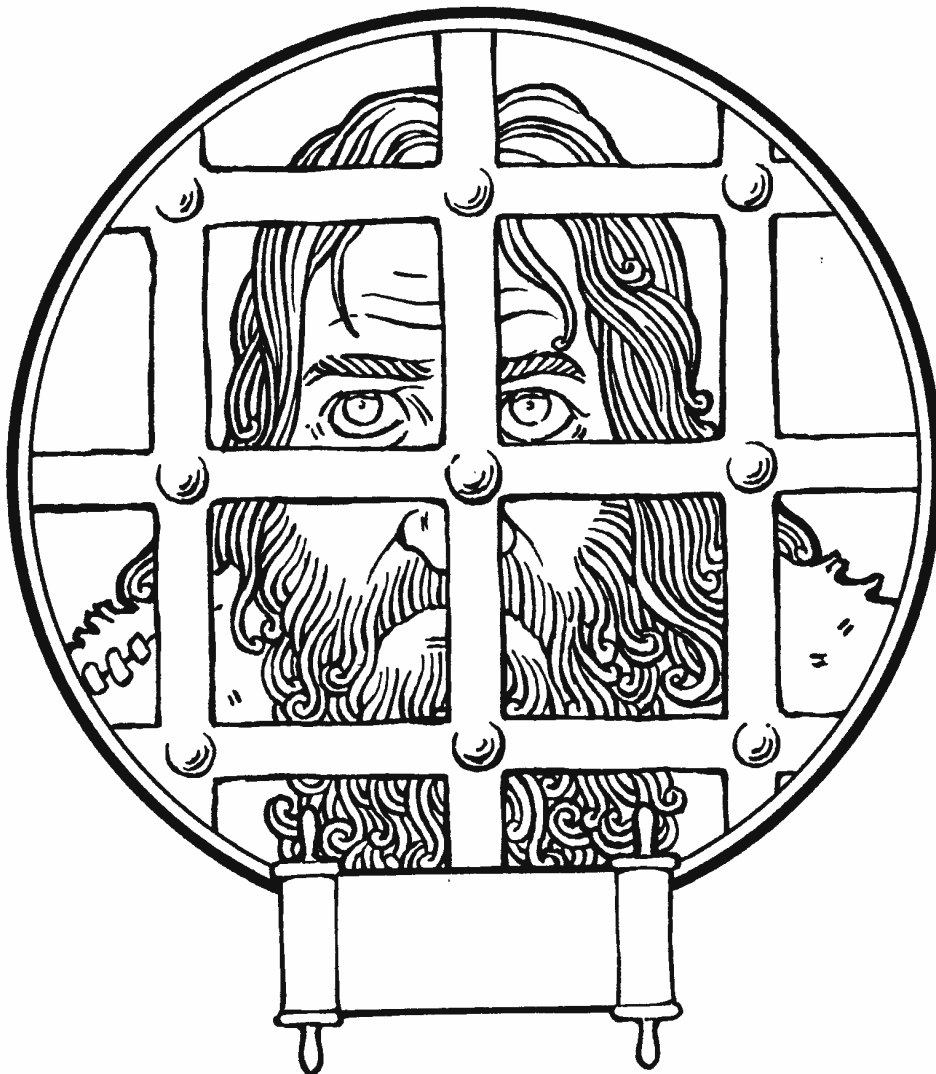


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service – Setting Three

December 14, 2025

Vol. 128-03

Pre-Service Music *Bethlehem Handbell Choir* "Hark the Glad Sound"

Processional Hymn

#347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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. 184

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*

The Lord | is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.

Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

*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.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*

The Lord | is at hand.

Kyrie

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response *“I Lift My Longing Eyes with Love”*

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

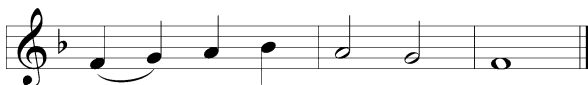
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “**Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “**What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”**”**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

*Brianne Graft (daughter inlaw of Kim and Gina), Jennifer Hofmann (sister inlaw of Dan and Heidi Kleppinger)
Joel Chancellor (DoRena's uncle), Heather Hawke (DoRena's cousin)
Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison), Kenneth Werling, James DeFrain
Megan Dunbam, Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunbam)
Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank with brain tumor)
Lisa Imbody (Layne Fisher's sister)
Hazel Krenzke (granddaughter of Dan and Sue Buchinger)
Brittany (Conrad) Clausius*

Elaine Scallon (cousin of Loren Dathe battling cancer)

Carla Wiederbold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

We pray for our expectant mothers *Hannah Stuckwisch, Makena Graham
Kaitlin (Meyer) Blair, Reese Springer*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

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

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

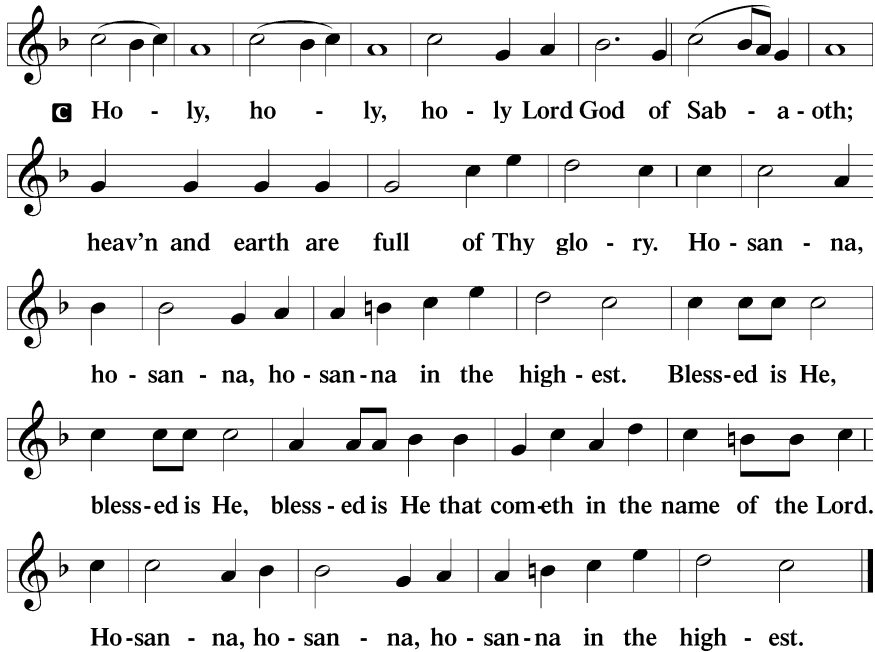


C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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.**

Distribution Hymns

#344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be - ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
 Text and tune: Public domain

#338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
 2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

#340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
 mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
 is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
 set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
 Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
 woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
 en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weisdel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

#342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
- 3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
- 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword— Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

#348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And light tri - um - phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



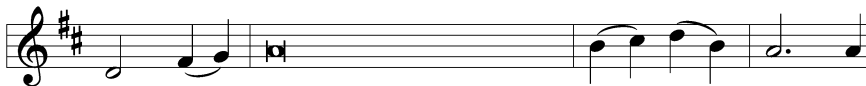
When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
And left the lone - some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen - dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

B and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

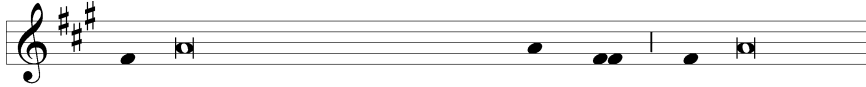


A Bless we the Lord.

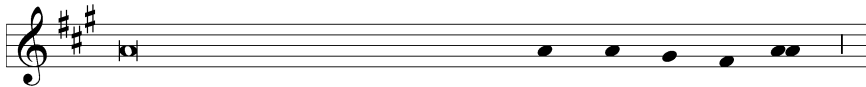


C Thanks be to God.

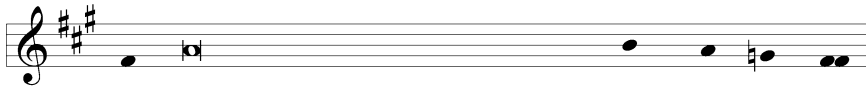
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
Tune: Public domain

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take a moment to sign one of the register books located in each of the church foyers. If you would like to be contacted by the pastor or an elder, then please take a moment to fill out one of the green cards on the narthex tables and give it to an elder or drop it in the offering collection plate. Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again. 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/bethlehelutheranchrossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

IN HIS SERVICE

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Preaching / Celebrant | Rev. Samuel Wirgau |
| Vicar | Sem. Charles McLain |
| Fieldworker | Sem. Brandon Streeks |
| Deaconess | Wendy Boehm |
| Head Elder | Bruce Werling |
| Elders on Duty | Bruce Meyer and Steve Conrad |
| Kantor | Richard Brinkley |
| Choirs | Bethlehem Handbell and Adult Choir |
| Acolytes | Alex Fuhrmann and Lucas Werling |
| Crucifer | Matthew Rekeweg |
| Altar Guild Chairman | Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver |
| Ushers | Rory Geiger, Lane Harkless, Isaac Harkless, Luke Harkless Darren Patrick, Cole Patrick, Mark 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 |
| <i>Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org</i> | |

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| TODAY | 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion Adult Bible Class or Sunday School Church Council Meeting Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7) |
| MONDAY | 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Boys vs Harlan (HOME) Girls vs Harlan (HOME) Handbell Choir Practice |
| WEDNESDAY | 10:00 a.m. NO 5:45 p.m. | Chapel Service Catechesis Class Youth Supper |
| | 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | Children's Christmas Service Adult Choir Practice |
| SUNDAY | 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. | Divine Service with Holy Communion Adult Bible Class – Sunday School Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7) |

Please join us for HOLIDAY WORSHIP: The Children's Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. *The Youth will be serving a light supper beginning at 5:45 p.m.* Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7:00 p.m. and Christmas Day Service on December 25th at 9:00 a.m. New Year's Eve Service on December 31st at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – TODAY December 14th after Adult Bible Class

THANK YOU – Leon and Arlene Werling would like to thank everyone for their warm wishes and cards for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

COOKIE WALK TODAY – A cookie walk is available in the east hallway TODAY after service. For only \$5/dozen, you can have a delightful variety of some of the best tasting cookies in the area! Please come and support this WOB fundraiser!

2026 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

The Friends of Wyneken - Due to last Sunday's unfavorable weather, the Friends of Wyneken will host an additional Christmas open house at the historic Wyneken House this Sunday, December 14, from 1 to 5 PM. A variety of Christmas villages will be on display. The holiday decorations can also be viewed until January 6 by calling/texting 260-519-3442 to schedule a visit. The Wyneken House is located at 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, Indiana.

WIDOWS GROUP EVENT – The next Widows Group will be on Sunday, January 11th at noon. We will be having an Epiphany potluck in the fellowship hall with card games afterwards. Contact Gail Werling for more information.

New Hope Lutheran Church will be hosting a Nativity Walk and Hymn Sing TODAY December 14th, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. We have nativities from around the world set up for viewing, and we will serve refreshments in the fellowship hall, along with a Christmas Hymn sing. Join us for all or part of the afternoon!

CHEESE BALLS – The youth still have homemade cheese balls available in the Fellowship Hall kitchen freezer. \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20. Please see Deaconess Boehm or a youth member.

PULLED PORK FOR SALE - 1 lb. package for \$5.00 each from Women of Bethlehem.

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. For questions or for placing an order, please contact Mariah Trammel at 260-267-1614, our PTL representative.

Offering December 7, 2025**Average weekly need \$14,000**

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Home Fund Env. | \$23,945.22 |
| Synod | 500.00 |
| Loose | 746.21 |
| Scholarship Fund | |
| Sunday School | |
| Improvement Fund | 100.00 |
| Endowment Fund | |
| Organ Fund | 100.00 |
| Fellowship Hall Rental | <u>90.00</u> |
| Total | \$25,481.43 |

Financial Report**Home Fund Balance \$41,343.15**

Next week's bills due: \$15,000

Bills due two weeks: \$5,000

Savings Account Balance \$19,890.22

Borrowed from Savings: \$46,000

Operating Loan Balance \$30,000

Borrowed from Op Loan \$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday 213/145

Wednesday 71/44

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of October 31, 2025:

\$373,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009

230,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched

392,597.09 - Amount generated since 2009

-179,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009

\$816,907.91 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of October 31, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund

\$ 90,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024

9,447.73 - Amount generated since November 2024

-10,000.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2024

\$ 89,526.66 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of October 31, 2025

Christmas Poinsettia plants can NOW be ordered using the bulletin insert and returning to the church office. Today is the last day to order.
Thank you

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM

**Poinsettia plants will again be used to decorate the church for Christmas!
If interested in ordering plants, please return this form with your payment
to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 14th**

***Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. Thank you**

_____ 6" pot \$13.00



Please make checks payable to: Women of Bethlehem.

Ordered by: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____



Decatur Lutheran Bible Institute
2026 Sessions: January 27, February 3, 10 & 17

Choose one of these stimulating courses:

Christ and His Work: See it in the Psalms

Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege – St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

God's Service: The Lutheran Liturgy at the 500th Anniversary of Luther's German Mass

Rev. Raymond Doubrava II – New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian

Bearing Fruit for God: How to Live the Christian Life

Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Martyrdom Accounts from the Early Church

Rev. Andrew Yeager – St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

- Tuition: \$10 per adult (covers 4 sessions), FREE for all students!
Bring your own personal Bible.
- Enrollment: Opening night at 6:30 pm followed by
classes from 7-9:15 pm
- Location: Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School,
US Hwy 27, just north of Decatur

Minimal Time Commitment!
Low Cost! No Homework!

Choose one of the four courses • Classes meet from 7:00 – 9:15 pm



Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege
St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

Topic: The Psalms: A Little Bible

Christ and His Work: See it in the Psalms

Do you want to learn about Jesus? Peer into the Psalms. Do you want to learn the basic doctrines of Christianity? Study the Psalms. Do you want to pray God's prayers? Pray the Psalms. Do you want comfort and encouragement? Consider several Psalms.

Session Topics

1. *Specifies About Jesus – in the Psalms*
2. *Realize the Catechism in the Psalms*
3. *Law and Gospel in the Psalms*
4. *Praying the Psalms*



Rev. Dr. Gifford Grobien
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Topic: Christian Ethics

Bearing Fruit for God: How to Live the Christian Life

Drawing primarily from the Bible, this course will introduce students to ideas, concepts and applications in Christian Ethics. The course will focus on the activity of the Christian Life, considering the orders of creation: church, family, and society. Besides addressing traditional topics such as marriage and family, Christian piety, work, and citizenship, we will address contemporary challenges related to bioethics, technology, and secularism.

Session Topics

1. *Christian Ethics: The Law and the Spirit*
2. *The Orders of Creation*
3. *Contemporary Challenges: Technology and Secularism*
4. *Issues: Bioethics and Politics*



Rev. Raymond Doubrava II
New Hope Lutheran Church, Ossian

Topic: Liturgics

God's Service: The Lutheran Liturgy at the 500th

Anniversary of Luther's German Mass

On Christmas Day 1525, Luther's German Mass was first used in Wittenberg and quickly spread throughout the Lutheran states. How was what Luther did innovative, and how was it consistent with the history of the Church? What ramifications does this have for us today

Session Topics

1. *Why the Divine Service?*
2. *The Biblical Foundation of the Divine Service*
3. *The Historical Foundation of the Divine Service*
4. *The Divine Service Today*



Rev. Andrew Yeager
St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church, Decatur

Topic: The Noble Army of Martyrs

Martyrdom: Accounts from the Early Church

This course will provide an in-depth history of early-church martyrs. As we examine how the martyrs bore witness to Jesus by their blood, our faith will be strengthened to follow their example and confess Christ in our own lives.

Session Topics

1. *Saint Polycarp*
2. *Saint Ignatius of Antioch*
3. *Saints Lucia, Perpetua, and Felicitas*
4. *Saint-Cyprian of Carthage*



Hosted by Pastor Timothy Appel

with guest

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Wednesday, December 17, at 8:00 a.m. CT

for a study on

“Yearning for the Day of Christ’s Returning”

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

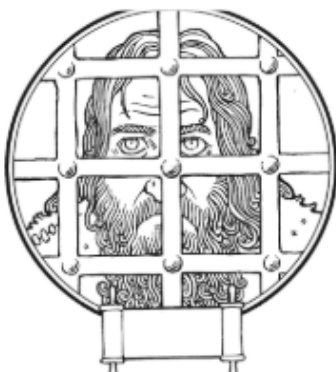
Listen Live or On-demand at:

kfjo.org/sharperiron



The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The week following the Third Sunday in Advent



The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

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.

Hymn of the Week: "Joy to the World" LSB #387

Recite the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed (LSB pg. 264)

The Catechism:

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

What is Galatians 5:17?

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:17

Psalm 85 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

| Daily Psalm | Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-------------|------|----------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|
| A.M. | 147 | 148 | 1, 2 | 5 | 8, 9 | 10 | 14, 15 |
| P.M. | 146 | 149, 150 | 3 | 4, 6 | 7 | 11, 12 | 13 |

Daily Bible Reading

| | |
|-------|--|
| Mon. | 2 Kings 5:1-14 - Naaman's Leprosy Is Cleansed Isaiah 30:27-31:9 |
| Tues. | Jonah 1:1-2:10- Jonah Is Swallowed by the Great Fish Isaiah 32:1-20 |
| Wed. | Matthew 12:38-45 - The Sign of Jonah Isaiah 33:1-24 |
| Thu. | Matthew 14:22-36 - Jesus Walks on the Water Isaiah 34:1-2, 8-35:10 |
| Fri. | John 12:1-5 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet Isaiah 40:1-17 |
| Sat. | <i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i> |

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes For Prayer

Sunday: *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.*

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In our Prayers this week: Strength and healing: Brianne, Jennifer, Joel, Heather, Jenny, James, Kenneth, Megan, Dan, Grace, Lisa, Hazel, Brittany, Elaine, Carla, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Hannah, Makena, Kaitlin **Homebound:** Ruth, Marilyn, Marilyn, Donald, Norwin and Martha.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

(LSB pg. 266)

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**

Looking forward to Sunday Morning: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7;

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56; Hymns: 353, 357, 341, 343, 345, 349, 350, 933