

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



## *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Divine Service – Setting Three

December 21, 2025

Vol. 128-04

## Processional Hymn

## #353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.  
Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt  
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  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (*sung responsively*)

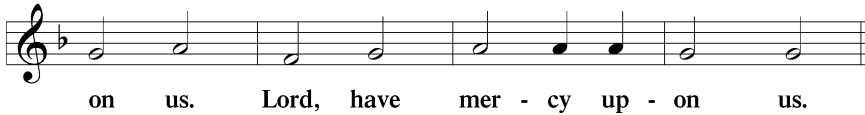


Shower, O heavens, | from above,\*  
and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;  
**let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit;\***  
**let the earth cause them | both to sprout.**  
The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,\*  
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.  
**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



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



## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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*

<sup>15</sup>“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—<sup>16</sup>just 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.’<sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>And 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.

## Gradual

The LORD is near to all who | call on him,\*  
to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,\*  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And 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



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. 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 be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**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

#357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

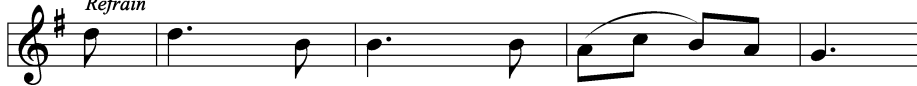


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;

Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Offertory



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 in-law of Kim and Gina)*

*Joel Chancellor (DoRena's uncle), Heather Hawke (DoRena's cousin)*

*Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison), Kenneth Werling, James DeFrain*

*Megan Dunham, Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)*

*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 Wiederhold (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.

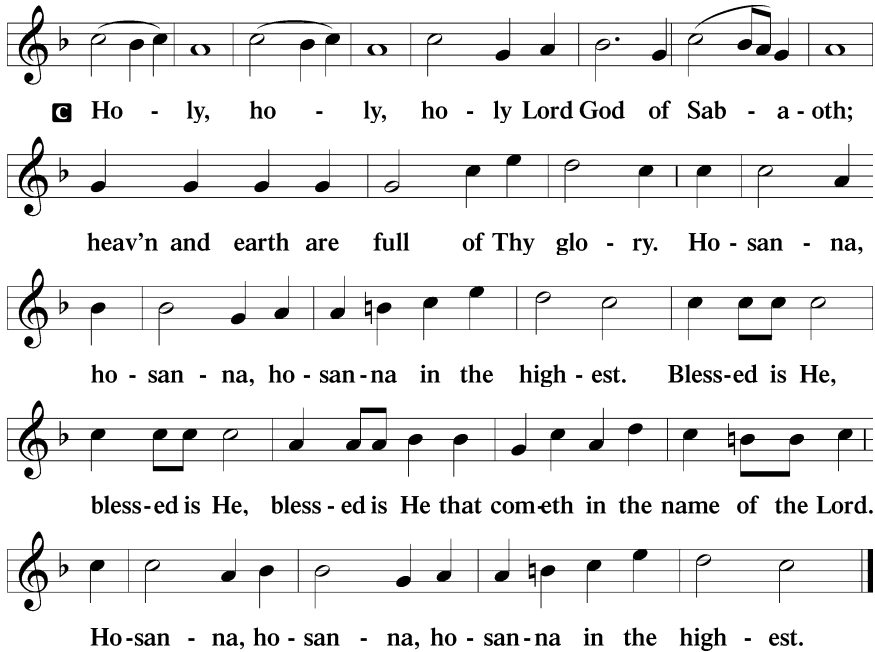


**C** It is meet and right so to do.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

## Sanctus



**C** 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

**O**ur 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.  
**F**or 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

#341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the  
 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His character  
 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the  
 4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a  
 5 Redeemed, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing  
 is humility, His kingdomly crown is hidden  
 ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy  
 temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's  
 Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-  
 vation, His shepherd, pity in distress. The end of  
 homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless  
 ploy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



va-tion He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
 all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
 Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
 Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.  
 To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.  
 To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weisell, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820-1913  
 Text and tune: Public domain

#343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
 2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
 4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

## #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  
 △ 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

## #349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## #350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



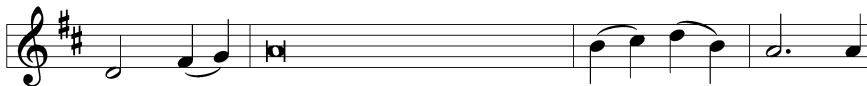
O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt  
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



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

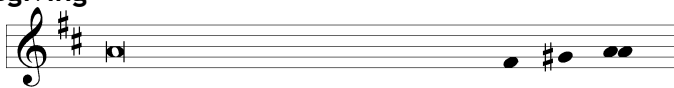


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

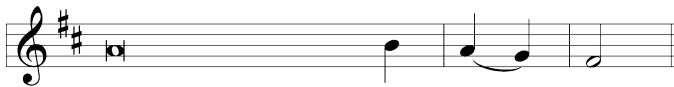


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving



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



**C** 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.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

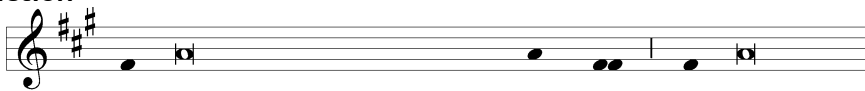


**A** Bless we the Lord.

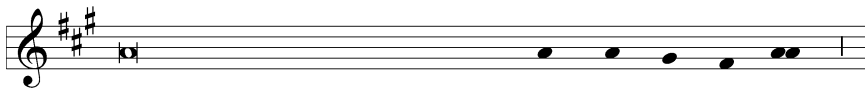


**C** Thanks be to God.

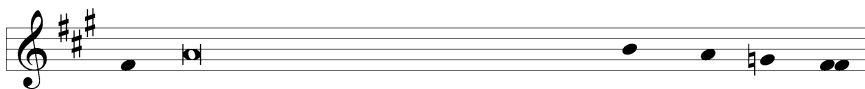
## Benediction



**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

## #933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

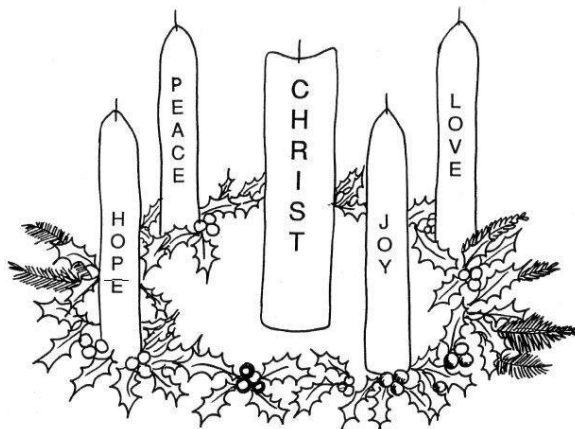
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955  
Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622  
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**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](mailto:bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com) or the church office at 597-7121.***  
***<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehelutheranchrossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream***



## IN HIS SERVICE

<b>Preaching</b>	Vicar Charles McLain
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
<b>Fieldworker</b>	Sem. Brandon Streeks
<b>Deaconess</b>	Wendy Boehm
<b>Head Elder</b>	Bruce Werling
<b>Elders on Duty</b>	Bruce Meyer and Steve Conrad
<b>Kantor</b>	Richard Brinkley
<b>Organist</b>	Emilie Meyer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Alex Fuhrmann and Lucas Werling
<b>Crucifer</b>	Jonah Bultemeier
<b>Altar Guild Chairman</b>	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
<b>Ushers</b>	Jared Conrad, Mike Nahrwold, Jacob Meyer, Trent Bultemeier Andrew Stoppenhagen, Nathanael Werling, Jacob Werling

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
( <a href="mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com">Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com</a> )	
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: <a href="http://www.blcsossian.org">www.blcsossian.org</a></i>	

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
<b>MONDAY</b>	NO SCHOOL Dec. 22 – Jan. 4
	7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>NO Chapel Service</b>
	NO Catechesis Class
	<b>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	NO Adult Bible Class – Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

**Please join us for HOLIDAY WORSHIP:** Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Christmas Day Service on December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. New Year's Eve Service on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**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

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

**VISUAL FAITH MINISTRY WORKSHOP | TUES, JAN 13 from 6-8pm**

Join us as we explore the practice of Scripture Scribing. Create an accordion tag book to record verses about living in Christ. All supplies are provided but feel free to bring your favorite adhesive, paper trimmer and beverage. Please RSVP by Jan 9 to reserve your spot!

<https://blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry> Contact Deann Oliver with questions 616-894-0144

**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 14, 2025**

<b><u>Average weekly need \$14,000</u></b>	
Home Fund Env.	\$27,921.49
Synod	350.00
Loose	256.21
Scholarship Fund	125.00
Sunday School	25.50
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	25.00
Organ Fund	49.47
US Treasury Refund	880.32
Memorial	25.00
Total	\$29,657.99

**Financial Report**

<b>Home Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$34,647.84</b>
Next week's bills due:	\$5,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$15,000
<b>Savings Account Balance</b>	<b>\$20,040.22</b>
Borrowed from Savings:	\$42,880
<b>Operating Loan Balance</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

**Church Attendance**

Sunday	162/130
Children's	185



**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

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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: Liturgies**

**God's Service: The Lutheran Liturgy at the 300th  
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*

## *The House of Daily Bread*

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



The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).

## **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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB #357***

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

***The Catechism:***

***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.*

***Psalm 111 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.***

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33
P.M.	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34

***Daily Bible Reading***

Mon.	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - The Greatest Commandment Isaiah 43:1-24
Tues.	Matthew 28:14-20- The Great Commission Isaiah 43:24-44:20
Wed.	Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Christ Isaiah 44:21-45:13, 20-25
Thu.	John 1:1-18 - Jesus Calls Andrew Isaiah 49:1-18
Fri.	John 21:20-25 - Jesus and the Beloved Apostle Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:8, 12-16
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

***Prayers***

*Collect of the Day*

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.

*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, Reese **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: Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:15-27; Epistle: Revelation 14:1-5; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18; Hymns: 399, 969, 365, 362, 367, 381, 383, 412