

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777  
*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



**Christmas Eve Service**  
*Lessons and Carols*

## Preservice Music

Choir: *“Bereite dich Zion” (“Prepare Thyself Zion” sung in German)*

The First Promise of a Savior: *Genesis 3: 1-15*

Processional Hymn *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

(Please stand and face the processional cross.)

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|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>O come, O come, Emmanuel,<br/>And ransom captive Israel,<br/>That mourns in lonely exile here<br/>Until the Son of God appear.<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p>                | <p>2. <b>O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,<br/>Free them from Satan’s tyranny<br/>That trust Thy mighty power to save,<br/>And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p>     |
| <p>3. <b>O come, Thou Key of David come,<br/>And open wide our heav’nly home<br/>Make safe the way that leads on high<br/>And close the path to misery<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> | <p>4. <b>O come, Thou Dayspring from on high<br/>And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;<br/>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>And death’s dark shadows put to flight,<br/>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>Shall come to thee, O Israel!</b></p> |

## The Invocation

**P** In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** This world has been made dark by our own sin and rebellion against God. We are by nature children of wrath and darkness. We have sinned against God and one another in thought, word, and deed. As the day is far spent and the darkness is here, let us speak the truth of the darkness of our own sin.

*(Silence for reflection upon God’s Law and one’s own sin)*

**P** We confess:

**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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**The First Lesson:** *Isaiah 64:1-9*

*Collect*

**HYMN:** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (stanza 2 sung by the choir)*

- 1. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**  
**From tender stem hath sprung!**  
**Of Jesse's lineage coming**  
**As prophets long have sung,**  
**It came a flow'ret bright,**  
**Amid the cold of winter,**  
**When half spent was the night.**
- 2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,*  
*The rose I have in mind;*  
*With Mary we beheld it,*  
*The virgin mother kind.*  
*To show God's love aright,*  
*She bore to us a Savior,*

*When half spent was the night.*

- 3. This flow'r whose fragrance tender**  
*With sweetness fills the air,*  
*Dispels with glorious splendor*  
*The darkness everywhere*  
*True man, yet very God.*  
*From sin and death He saves us*  
*And lightens every load.*

**The Second Lesson:** *Ezekial 34:11-16*

*Collect*

**HYMN:** *Hark the Glad Sound*

- 1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,**  
**The Savior promised long;**  
**Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne**  
**And ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2. He comes the pris'ners to release,**  
**In Satan's bondage held.**  
**The gates of brass before Him burst,**  
**The iron fetters yield.**
- 3. He comes the broken heart to bind,**  
**The bleeding soul to cure,**  
**And with the treasures of His grace**  
**To enrich the humble poor.**

- 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name.**

**The Third Lesson: *Isaiah 40: 1-8***

*Collect*

**HYMN with the Choir:** *All My Heart Again Rejoices* (Choir sings 2 and 4)

- 1. All my heart again rejoices  
As I hear far and near  
Sweetest angel voices.  
"Christ is born!" their choirs are singing  
Till the air everywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.**
- 2. *Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:  
"Now the foe, sin and woe,  
Death and hell are broken!"  
God is man, man to deliver,  
And the Son now is one  
With our blood forever.***
- 3. Should we fear our God's displeasure  
Who to save, freely gave  
His most precious treasure?  
To redeem us He has given  
His own Son from the throne  
Of His might in heaven.**

4. *Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls one and all,  
"You are safe from danger,  
Children from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed; all you need  
I will surely give you."*

5. **Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all, great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high in that joy  
Which will vanish never.**

**The Fourth Lesson:** *Luke 1: 26-28*

*Collect*

**HYMN:** *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

1. **The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**
2. **"For now a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**
3. **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy Name."**

**Most highly favored lady. Gloria!**

- 4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

**The Fifth Lesson:** *Matthew 1:18-25*

*Collect*

**HYMN:** *Let Our Gladness Have No End*

**1. Let our gladness have no end alleluia!  
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ His Son to save us;  
Christ His Son to save us.**

**2. Prophetied in days of old, alleluia!  
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ His Son to save us;  
Christ His Son to save us.**

**3. Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!  
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!  
On this day God gave us  
Christ His Son to save us;  
Christ His Son to save us;**

**Sixth Lesson:** *Luke 2: 1-7*

*Collect*

**Choir:** *“Still, Still, Still”* Austrian Christmas lullaby, sung in German

**The Seventh Lesson:** *Luke 2:8-20*

*Collect*

**HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

- 1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**
  
- 2. Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**
  
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**THE MEANING OF THE SECOND ARTICLE** (Please stand.)

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but**



**with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,  
that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in  
everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

(Please be seated.)

### **The Sermon**

### **The Offering**

### **The Prayers** (Please stand.)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Lighting of the Candles**

*(Angle your candle to receive the flame from your neighbor. Then keep your  
candle upright.)*

### **HYMN: Silent Night**

#### **1. Silent night, holy night!**

**All is calm, all is bright**

**'Round yon virgin mother and child**

**Holy infant so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

#### **2. Silent night, holy night!**

**Shepherds quake at the sight,**

**Glories stream from heaven afar,**

**Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!**

**Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**3. Silent night, holy night!**

**Son of God, love's pure light**

**Radiant beams from Thy holy face**

**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**

**Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

(Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the hymn.)

**HYMN:** *The People That in Darkness Sat*

**1. The people that in darkness sat**

**A glorious light have seen:**

**The light has shined on them who long**

**In shades of death have been,**

**In shades of death have been.**

**2. To us a Child of hope is born,**

**To us a Son is giv'n,**

**And on His shoulder ever rests**

**All pow'r in earth and heaven,**

**All pow'r in earth and heaven.**

**3. His Name shall be the Prince of Peace,**

**The everlasting Lord,**

**The Wonderful, the Counselor,**

**The God by all adored,**

**The God by all adored.**

- 4. His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.**

### **The Benediction**

**The Closing Hymn: LSB 376: *Once in Royal David's City*  
( Stanzas 1 and 3 sung by the choir)**

- 1. Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**
- 3. For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.*

4. **And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**
  
5. **Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!**

## **Postlude**

### **In His Service**

Preaching: Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Liturgist: Rev. Anthony Dodgers

Vicar: Sem. Charles McLain

Fieldworker: Sem. Brandon Streeks

Crucifer: J. T. Holzclaw

Acolytes: Hunter Householder and Lucas Werling

Choir: Bethlehem Junior Choir

Organist: Kantor Richard Brinkley

*The front cover artwork was created by Brooke Werling, daughter of Lee and Danielle Werling, a second-grade student at Bethlehem*