

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



## *Christmas Day*

Divine Service – Setting Three

December 25, 2025

Processional Hymn

#379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.  
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
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,



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
**And his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor,\***  
**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.**

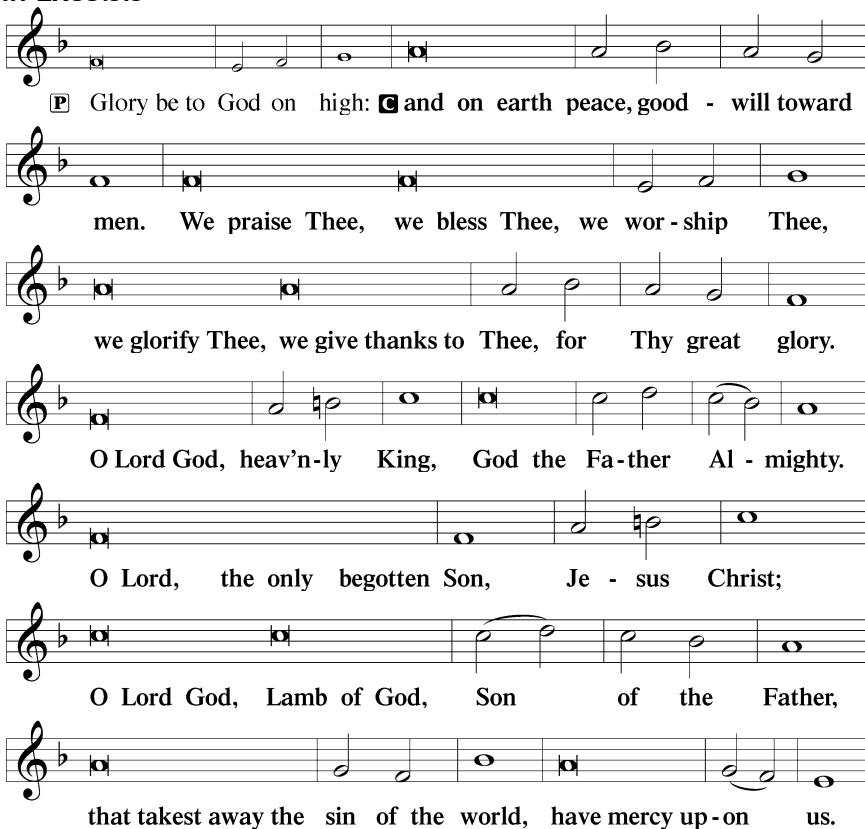
*Antiphon (Sung by the choir)*

## Kyrie



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

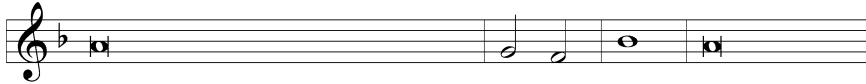
## Gloria in Excelsis



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



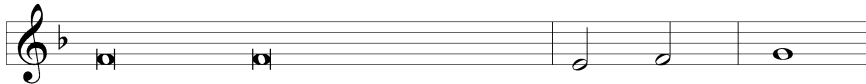
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



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



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; 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.

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38*

<sup>17</sup>In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. <sup>18</sup>Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles,

and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup>And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup>He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup>And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Choral Response “*Lovely Child, Holy Child*”

### Epistle

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Choral Response “*To us a Child of Hope is Born*”

### Alleluia



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

### Holy Gospel

*John 1:1–18*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the

darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**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

#382 We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth



1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You  
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -  
 3 The vir - gin Mar - y's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant  
 4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to



came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy  
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne  
 Lord Most High. Up - on her lap con - tent is He  
 gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,



And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Who keeps the earth and sky and sea. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 The very Son of God sublime  
 Entered into earthly time  
 To lead us from this world of cares  
 To heaven's courts as blessèd heirs.  
 Alleluia!
- 6 In poverty He came to earth  
 Showing mercy by His birth;  
 He makes us rich in heav'nly ways  
 As we, like angels, sing His praise.  
 Alleluia!
- 7 All this for us our God has done  
 Granting love through His own Son.  
 Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice

And sing His praise with endless voice.

## Alleluia!

Text (st. 1): German, c. 1380; (sts. 1, 6): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (sts. 2-7): Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 2, 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (sts. 3, 5, 7): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt

Text (sts. 1, 3, 5-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 2, 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.

## 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

**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  $\text{✠}$  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.



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

### #380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### #386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!                      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee!                      Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there!                      May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there!                      Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.  
Tune: German, 14th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

### #389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

- 5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.
- 6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessèd paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.
- △ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield

And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.  
Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561  
Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711  
Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

#897 O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly



1 O re - joice, ye Chris - tians, loud - ly, For our joy has  
2 See, my soul, thy Sav - ior choos - es Weak - ness here and  
3 Lord, how shall I thank Thee right - ly? I ac - knowl - edge  
4 Je - sus, guard and guide Thy mem - bers, Fill them with Thy



now be - gun; Won - drous things our God has done.  
pov - er - ty; In such love He comes to thee.  
that by Thee I am saved e - ter - nal - ly.  
bound - less grace, Hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.



Tell a - broad His good - ness proud - ly, Who our race has  
Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es; All He suf - fers  
Let me not for - get it light - ly, But to Thee at  
Fan to flame faith's glow - ing em - bers; Grant all Chris - tians,



hon - ored thus, That He deigns to dwell with us.  
for thy good To re - deem thee by His blood.  
all times cleave And my heart true peace re - ceive.  
far and near, Ho - ly peace, a glad new year!



*Refrain*  
Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness, Christ has done a -



way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,



For the Sun of Grace is shin - ing!

Text: Christian Keimann, 1607-62; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt, c. 1611-1675  
Text and tune: Public domain

## #369 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

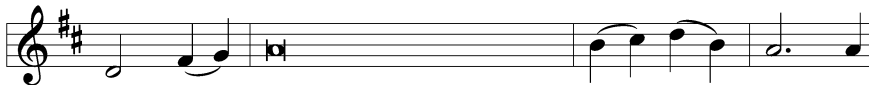
Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021

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## Nunc Dimittis



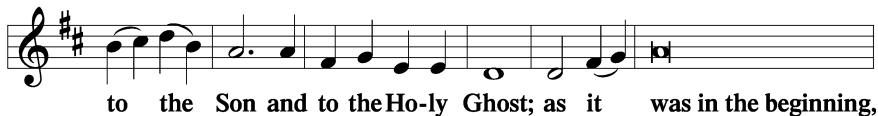
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



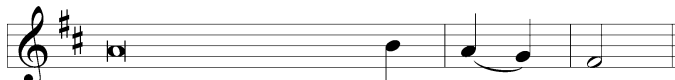
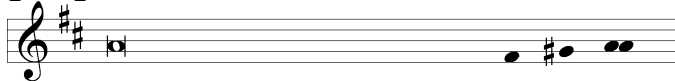
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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



## Thanksgiving



## 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.



## Salutation



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

## Benedicamus

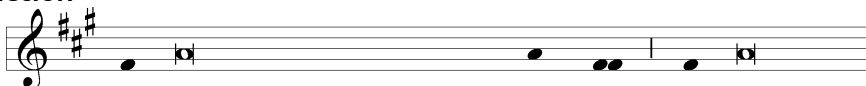


**A** Bless we the Lord.



**G** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
 Text and 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!

***The front cover artwork was created by Harper Miller, daughter of Samantha Tolson and Dakota Miller, a fourth-grade student at Bethlehem***

## IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
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	Volunteers
Crucifer	Lucas Werling
Altar Guild Chairman	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
Ushers	Jared Meyer, Cale Schumm, Nathan Meyer Evan Springer, Grant Scheumann, Adam Lambert

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*Be sure to pick up your Poinsettia plants after today's service. Thank you*

