

# Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve - 4pm December 24, 2021

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, Page 147



**Pre-Worship Christmas Music**

*Celebrate the Child  
African Alleluia*

**BLC Choir  
BLC Choir**

**Prelude**

*Hark the Herald*

**Bethlehem Bells**

**Bell Ringing/ Welcome**

*(P: A light shines in the darkness. A: And the darkness has not overcome it.)*

## GATHERING

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High,  
‡ one God, now and forever

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ‡ Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

**Children's Message**

**Annie Slabaugh**

**Opening Hymn**

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

**ELW 297**

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild; new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

### Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**


A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

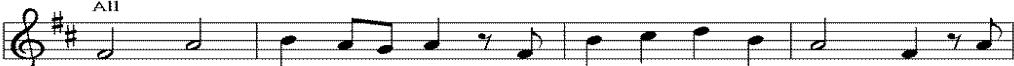
## Glory to God

Assisting minister

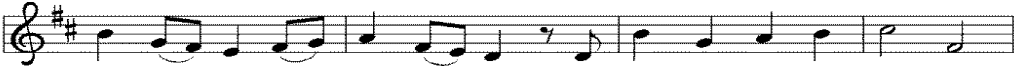


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



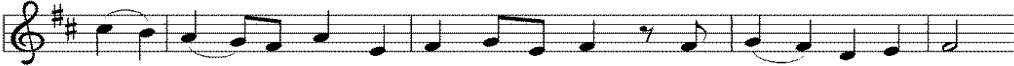
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

### Psalmody

### Psalm 96

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Old Testament Lesson

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo-ria in excelsis De-o; glo-ria in excelsis De-o.

**Gospel****Luke 2:1-20**

L: A reading from...

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

**Message****Pastor Paul Busekist**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come  
and behold him, born the king of angels. O  
come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore  
him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to  
God in the highest O come, let us adore him, O  
come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore  
him, Christ the Lord!

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy  
morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us  
adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession:** response after each petition **'Hear our prayer'**

L: (*Before prayer*) Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation... (*Conclusion*) P: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

### **MEAL**

**Offering**

(*encouraged for before or after service, using vase only and not ushers*)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in they dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

**Offering Prayer:**

A: Let us Pray. Emmanuel, God with us:

**C: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

**Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer**

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

**P:** The gifts of the God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion****Communion Hymns**

***Shepherd's Carol  
All for a Baby  
That Boy-Child of Mary (verses 1-4)***

***Bethlehem Bells  
BLC Choir  
ELW 293***

**Post-Communion Blessing**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### Announcements

*(Candles for Silent Night are lit at this time; they should be extinguished after the song is finished)*

### Candlelight Song

### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW 281

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Silent night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright<br>round yon virgin mother and child.<br>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br>sleep in heavenly peace,<br>sleep in heavenly peace. | heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!  |
| 2 Silent night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br>glories stream from heaven afar,  | 3 Silent night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>radiant beams from your holy face,<br>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth. |

### Blessing:

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

### Sending Song

### *Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King. Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well; no tongue can tell! Joy, unspeakable joy! It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love and wonders of His love and wonders, wonders of His love!

Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well; no tongue can tell! Joy, unspeakable joy! It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

### Dismissal

A: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: Peace to God's people on earth!**

A: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Preaching and Presiding Minister:** Pastor Paul Busekist

**Musicians:** David Husser

**Asst. Min:** Barbara Wright

***“We journey with God to serve with love.”***

**Merry Christmas!**