



## *Bethel Lutheran Church*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 7:00 PM

### **The Nativity of Our Lord**

#### **Welcome to Bethel!**

This evening, we join Christians across the globe in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. We are so glad you're here and pray that your heart is touched by the love, hope, and promise the Christ Child brings to the world. In today's fast-paced world, many people are longing for a deeper connection with Jesus. If that speaks to you, we invite you to connect with our pastor. Join us as we live out our vision to be a **"community growing DEEPER in faith and WIDER in love."**

#### **Worship Notes:**

Please note that the congregation's responses are in **bold** text.

**\*To turn on the candle twist the bottom to the right until the light comes on. Please remember to return the candle to the basket after worship.**

*Childcare is available* for infants through three years of age. See an usher for assistance. Infants and young children are welcome at worship and are encouraged to sit with their families near the front of the church so that they can fully participate in worship. Our well-trained nursery staff will be eager to welcome your children should they need some play time!

# GATHERING

## GATHERING MUSIC

## ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (ELW #275)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## WELCOME & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Tonight, the waiting ends. The Light long-promised shines in the darkness.

**People:** And the darkness has not overcome it.

**Leader:** We gather as shepherds once did, amazed at God's glory revealed in a child.

**People:** We come with wonder, with joy, and with open hearts.

**Leader:** This is the night when heaven touches earth, when God's Word becomes flesh and dwells among us.

**People:** Let us rejoice, for unto us a Savior is born!

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the God who brings peace, hope, joy, and love.

**All:** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth! Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

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**WORD**

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**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE***Pastor David Young***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION****FIRST READING***Isaiah 9:2-7*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**





- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON****FINDING JESUS IN THE SMALL PLACES****PASTOR DAVID YOUNG****Reflection questions:**

1. Which of Isaiah's names for Jesus—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—do you most need right now? Why?
2. Why does God regularly choose ordinary people – a young couple, shepherds – to receive extraordinary news? How might God be choosing YOU?
3. What "good news of great joy" do you need to hear this Christmas?





O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God the Father, the creator and author of all life from whom all things in heaven and earth are born.**

**We believe in God the Son, born humbly into our world, as one of us, crucified and risen, who lives in our hearts through faith, and calls us to love as He loves.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who enlivens, guides and strengthens us with power from on high, to be the body of Christ today.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends with, "God of grace". The assembly responds, "**Receive our prayer.**"*

## PEACE

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,  
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

# HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.  
During this time, the table is set and music is shared as we meditate and reflect.*

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION- O HOLY NIGHT**, Worship Choir

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

### 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION



# MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

# LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING (ELW #272)



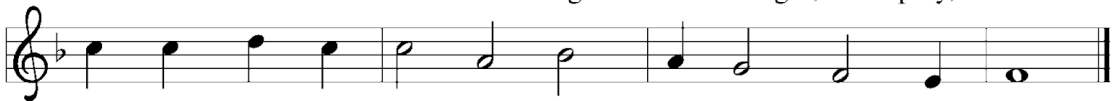
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

# MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION-PEACE, PEACE, Worship Choir

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

# SENDING



## BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT (HYMN ELW#281)



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## BLESSING

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere. **Thanks be to God.**  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

# *Poinsettias given in celebration of the birth of Christ:*

**GIVEN BY..**

Rosaria Cottino  
Mel Siebert  
Michelle Young & Connie Wirfel

**IN HONOR OF...**

The Cottino Family  
Emily, Bobby & Nana's Birthday  
Anne Young

**GIVEN BY...**

David Farmer  
Ronald Bourne  
David Look  
Shirley Strosnider  
Linda Shortt  
Sheri Forrest  
His loving Grandchildren  
Michelle Young & Connie Wirfel  
Karen White

**IN MEMORY OF...**

Ray & Dorothy Farmer  
Leva & Evan Bourne  
Frances, Crisman, Terry Frye and Catharine & Evert Look  
Parents and Grandparents  
Samuel & Lois Trujillo  
Rodney Forrest  
Bob DeMott (Pop Pop)  
Norb & Dorothy Wirfel & Marty Young  
Chuck White

**Poinsettias may be taken home after worship.**





*Merry Christmas  
and thank you for all the ways that you help to support Bethel!  
Pastor Dave and the Bethel Staff and Council*

## **BETHEL STAFF & COUNCIL**

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