**Bethel Lutheran Church**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Christmas Eve | Tuesday, December 24, 2024

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**Mission Statement**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Spirit Art**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

**Luke 2:1-20**

***A drawing of a manger and a person

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**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Meditation time** On Christmas Night arr. by David Cherwien

Your Little Ones Dear Lord Are We arr. by David Cherwien

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night by Anna L. Page

Trombone Solo - Nicole Kleve

**Welcome & Announcements**

**GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Red Hymnal #283)**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. God-with-us, **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.** Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

**Greeting**

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

**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.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** Born in Bethlehem words by John Parker, music by David Lantz III

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Let us pray: **Gracious God, we have waited in patience and hope for your arrival, and finally you have come.  We rejoice! And welcome you into our lives. Just as your light now shines within us, help and guide us in living out your light in the world sharing hope, peace, joy, and love with all the people we meet. Amen.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**FIRST Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

2 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. 3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 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.5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 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. 7 Great will be his authority, 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**.

**HYMN From Heaven Above (Red Hymnal #268, vs 1-3)**

**SECOND Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation O Little Town of Bethlehem (Red Hymnal #279, vs 1-2)**

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

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

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-20** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 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 in the guest room. 8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15 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.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *What Child Is This* (Red Hymnal #296)**

**NICENE Creed (\*See Insert)**

**Prayers of Intercession** God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**Meal**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

**Offering** Chime Choir -Away in a Manger and Still, Still, Still arr. by Lloyd Larson

**Offering Prayer**

**God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table (Purple Book p. 21)**

…into the future. **We rejoice in you, O God.**

…with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

…proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**…**in your church, without end. **Amen.**

**Lord’s prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,** **hallowed be your name,** **your kingdom come,** **your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.** **Give us today our daily bread.** **Forgive us our sins** **as we forgive those** **who sin against us.** **Save us from the time of trial** **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,** **and the glory are yours,** **now and forever. Amen.**

**Communion**

**Communion hymns Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Red Hymnal #276)**

**Away in a Manger (Red Hymnal #277)**

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Red Hymnal #272)**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT**

*Ushers will dim the lights and light the person’s candle at the end of each row. Share the light down the pew; tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle.* ***Do not tip the lit candle.*** *Children should use their battery candles to light! Please extinguish your candle after the hymn.*

**HYMN OF LIGHT Silent Night, Holy Night! with Night of Silence by Daniel Kantor**

*(The congregation joins the choir singing vs 2 & 3 of Silent Night)*

**2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly 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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

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 Song *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Red Hymnal #289)**

**Dismissal** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. by Anna Laura Page

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**Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church!**

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care needs, call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email [pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto:pastor@lpbethel.org).

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, **(MAILING USPS: PO Box 207)**

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Description automatically generated**WEBSITE:** [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK**: www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at Noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** Scan the QR code

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! If you have any questions, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org**.**

**TEXT GIVING:** To give text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**



**Merry Christmas!**

**\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,** **the Father, the Almighty,** **maker of heaven and earth,** **of all that is, seen and unseen.** **We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** **the only Son of God,** **eternally begotten of the Father,** **God from God, Light from Light,** **true God from true God,** **begotten, not made,** **of one Being with the Father;** **through him all things were made.** **For us and for our salvation** **he came down from heaven,** **was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary** **and became truly human.** **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;** **he suffered death and was buried.** **On the third day he rose again** **in accordance with the scriptures;** **he ascended into heaven** **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.** **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,** **and his kingdom will have no end.** **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,** **who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,** **who has spoken through the prophets.** **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.** **We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.** **We look for the resurrection of the dead,** **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**





**Christmas Eve 2024**

**Poinsettia Dedications**

In celebration of our children and grandchildren by Judy and Eric Angvall

In celebration of our children and grandchildren by Diane and Dave Horsman

In loving memory of our family by Peggy, Jeff, and Alex Wick

In celebration of our grandchildren by Georgia and Victor Groe

In loving memory of family by Georgia and Victor Groe

In loving memory of our parents by Jill and Brian Duncan

In celebration of my children by Lisa Klobe

In celebration of my dad, Bernie, by Jeff Hanson

In loving memory of Craig Jepsen by Sara Jepsen

In loving memory of Lloyd Weisenburger by Shirley Weisenburger and family

In celebration of our friends and family by Jan and Dave Gohl

In celebration of our family and grandchildren by Jean and Pete Hallberg

In loving memory of Tim Smith by Jan Smith

In loving memory of Bryon’s dad, Lloyd, and LuAnn’s sister, Jeanette, by Bryon and LuAnn W.

In loving memory of our parents by Jean and Jerry Christenson

In loving memory of our grandparents by Tamie and Ron Foust

In honor of our wedding anniversary by Kathy and Dick Kiekhaefer (altar wreaths)

**Thank you for adorning our church!**

