

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Know Jesus – Grow in the Bible – Excel in Loving God and Others!

December 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve



Today's service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166).

WELCOME:

- ✦ **Bell:** *Take a service folder and be seated.*
- ✦ **Phone:** *Please silence.*
- ✦ **Visitors:** *Welcome; please see the WHITE pew card and let us get to know you.*
- ✦ **Green Attendance Slip:** *Please complete.*
- ✦ **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).*
- ✦ **Older Children:** *You are invited to learn and participate as much as possible.*
- ✦ **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in Narthex.*
- ✦ **Lord's Supper Information:** *See that section in this folder.*
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** *See the YELLOW pew card and the "Receive Prayer" section at the end.*

PRELUDE

Let us listen, think, and prepare to receive!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

↑ GOD'S WORK of SORROW and ASSURANCE:

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Silence for self-examination.

L: O almighty God, merciful Father,

A: **The Bible is Your Holy Word.**

From Your Word I know Your will, but I have sinned against You in many ways. I deserve Your eternal punishment, and have no ability to save myself.

I am sorry for my sins and ask for Your mercy on the basis of Your Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, and His work to take away my sins.

L: 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 [*in the place of*] and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

See the words below / TLH 136 / LSB 367

Today's Procession:

Bible: It's all about Jesus (John 5:39)!

Christ Candle: Jesus is the True Light (John 1:9)!

Crucifix: Jesus was born to die (Acts 2:22-24)!

Then: Candle-Lighting > Tree > Star > All Worship Area Lights

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain**

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**
- 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

KYRIE:

- L: *Highest, Most Holy,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: *Light of Light Eternal,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**
L: *Son of the Father,*
C: **have mercy upon us.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory Be to God on High*

See the words below / LSB 380

1. "Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, worship You, O LORD most high.
Gracious Father, heav'nly King. To Your name alone we sing:
Praise and glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!
2. Jesus Christ, the Father's Son.
Sole-begotten, Holy One.
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true Man for us to die.
Lamb of God, you take away this world's sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone are most high, O God the Son, And the Father, God above,
praise we now Your glorious love.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

- L: The LORD be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
L: *Let us pray.* O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our

Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. ↓

Children! Please come forward now!

HYMN: *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

See the words below / (AGPS 145)

1. Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us
blessed Redeemer, living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd
vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the World.

© 1974, 1978 Scripture In Song (Admin. by Integrity's Hosanna!
Music [c/o Integrity Music, Inc.]) CCLI License No. 1241604

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Jesus' Birthday!



CHOIR: A Celtic Noel

CREATION, FALL, and PROMISE

Genesis 1:31; Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:15

HYMN: *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

See the words below / TLH 55 / LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

SOME MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

HYMN: *Hark the Glad Sound*

See the words below / TLH 66 / LSB 349

- 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.

PROPHECIES and BIRTH

Luke 1:13-17; Luke 1:30-35; Galatians 4:4-5

HYMN: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

See the words below / TLH 85 / LSB 358

- 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY – Pt 1: Luke 2:1-7

Readers: Nevin, Andrew, and Austin

Joseph: Carter

Mary: Shelby

HYMN: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

See the words below / LSB 393

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing,
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY – Pt 2: Luke 2:8-14

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

See the words below / LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE CHRISTMAS STORY – Pt 3: Luke 2:15-20

HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

See the words below / LSB 388

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

- 3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain.**

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

Go to the back of either hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *Let Us Pray*

After Each Petition:

L: Father, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

- ✦ For God loving us so much that He sent His Son to give us the gift of eternal life!
- ✦ For thankfulness for Jesus' sinless living and sacrificial dying to remove our sins!
- ✦ For our reception of the benefits of Jesus' saving work through Holy Baptism!
- ✦ For God assuring us of His forgiveness through the Lord's Supper!
- ✦ For God's help to keep our Christmas celebrations focused on Jesus!
- ✦ For many needed blessings upon our nation, leaders, and military!

- ✦ For all who need physical healing!
- ✦ For all who do not yet know Jesus!
- ✦ For daily nourishment from God's Word!
- ✦ For weekly reception of Word and Sacrament!
- ✦ For faithfulness in living God's Word!
- ✦ For love, wisdom, and boldness to tell others the good news about Jesus!

Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

OFFERING: *Thanks for being faithful!*

OFFERTORY

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LORD'S SUPPER INFORMATION: *Please read through this section on your own!*

Self-Examination Questions:

1. **Have I been baptized into Christ?** "...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).
2. **Am I sorry for my sins?** "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation" (2 Cor. 7:10).
3. **Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior?** "...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
4. **Do I desire to follow God's Word?** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).
5. **Will I receive bread—Body, wine—Blood, for the forgiveness of my sins?** "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Cor. 10:16) (Mt. 26:26-28).

Participation:

- † **Who Can Receive Today?** Those who answered YES to the five questions.
- † **Receive at Your Pew:** Notify an usher.
- † **Receive a Blessing:** Cross your arms.
- † **More Information:** Ask Pastor or a pastoral assistant, or see brochure rack.

Reception:

- † **Opportunity:** Available, but not required.
- † **Reception:** Thoughtfully, not mechanically.
- † **Come with Sorrow:** Jesus was punished for us.
- † **Reception Options:** Receive His Body *in your hand or on your tongue*, His blood *from an individual cup or from the chalice* (center cups are alcohol removed wine).
- † **Return with Joy:** *Your sins are forgiven!*

↑ **LORD'S PRAYER:** *See back of either hymnal!*

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: Our Father who art in heaven...

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *On Good Friday*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: *When All the World Was Cursed*

See the words below / LSB 346

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win. ↓

© 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012222.

DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Special Music by Gayle

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: *Let us pray...*

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, we give You thanks for assuring us that we are forgiven through *the Christ of Christmas*, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

INDIVIDUAL CANDLES ARE LIT:

Organist – *Please play some Christmas Music*

Ushers – *Please come forward with a Candle*

Congregation: *Please do the following...*

- ✦ Keep your lit candle upright
- ✦ Tip your unlit candle to light it
- ✦ Pass the flame to those in your pew

HYMN: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

See the words below / LSB 363

1 – All: 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.

1 – All: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schlaeft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

2 – All: 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!

Choir ONLY – with Hand Chimes

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.

HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
See the words below / LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

**Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Please extinguish your candle

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* – ♦be within you to refresh you, ♦be before you to guide you, ♦be around you to protect you, ♦be beneath you to uphold you, and ♦be above you to bless you.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Let us apply God’s Word to our daily lives!

THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVED

Organist: Gayle Powers

Choir Director: Harold Weseloh

All Choir Members

All Ushers

All Youth Readers and Child Participants

THANKS FOR DECORATING OUR CHANCEL

To God be the glory!

You may take your poinsettia home after tonight’s service – HELP YOURSELF

Carl & Nancy Burton, Doris Chmielewski, Natalia Ford, Pastor & Kathy Green, the Hilliker family, Gloria Hurka, Eleanor Lewis, Klaus & Ingrid Kitzler, Will Mild, Marci Sherepita, Greg & Cindy Slepko, and Bill & Norma Sweeny

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2020

Thanks for supporting God’s work in and through this congregation! Let us be faithful, confident that God will bless us!

Some envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex. If you want some – but none are available, please contact the church office.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- ➔ **CHRISTMAS DAY:** Divine Service at 10
- ➔ **THE SATURDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: 12/28**
 - No class
 - Divine Service 4:00
 - No refreshments
- ➔ **THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: 12/29**
 - Divine Service 9:00
 - Refreshments 10:15
 - Bible Class 10:30 – Dr. Giessler
 - No Sunday School
- ➔ **NEW YEAR'S EVE:**
 - Divine Service at 6
 - *Attending on New Year's Eve is a good way to end 2019 and begin 2020; HNY*
- ➔ **SATURDAYS IN 2020:**
 - Bible Class 3:00
 - Divine Service 4:00
 - Refreshments 5:10
- ➔ **SUNDAYS IN 2020:**
 - Divine Service 9:00
 - Refreshments 10:15
 - Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30

OUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

- ✦ **THANKS** – To Matt Kussmaul, our Worship Team Leader, and all who helped him put up our Christmas tree and wreaths last Sunday!
- ✦ **Wreaths:** Shaped like the crown of thorns; symbolizes eternal life – *a circle has no beginning or ending!*
- ✦ **Tree:** It points toward heaven; its evergreen color symbolizes eternal life!
- ✦ **Lights:** In the deep darkness of sin and death, Jesus is the True Light of the world!

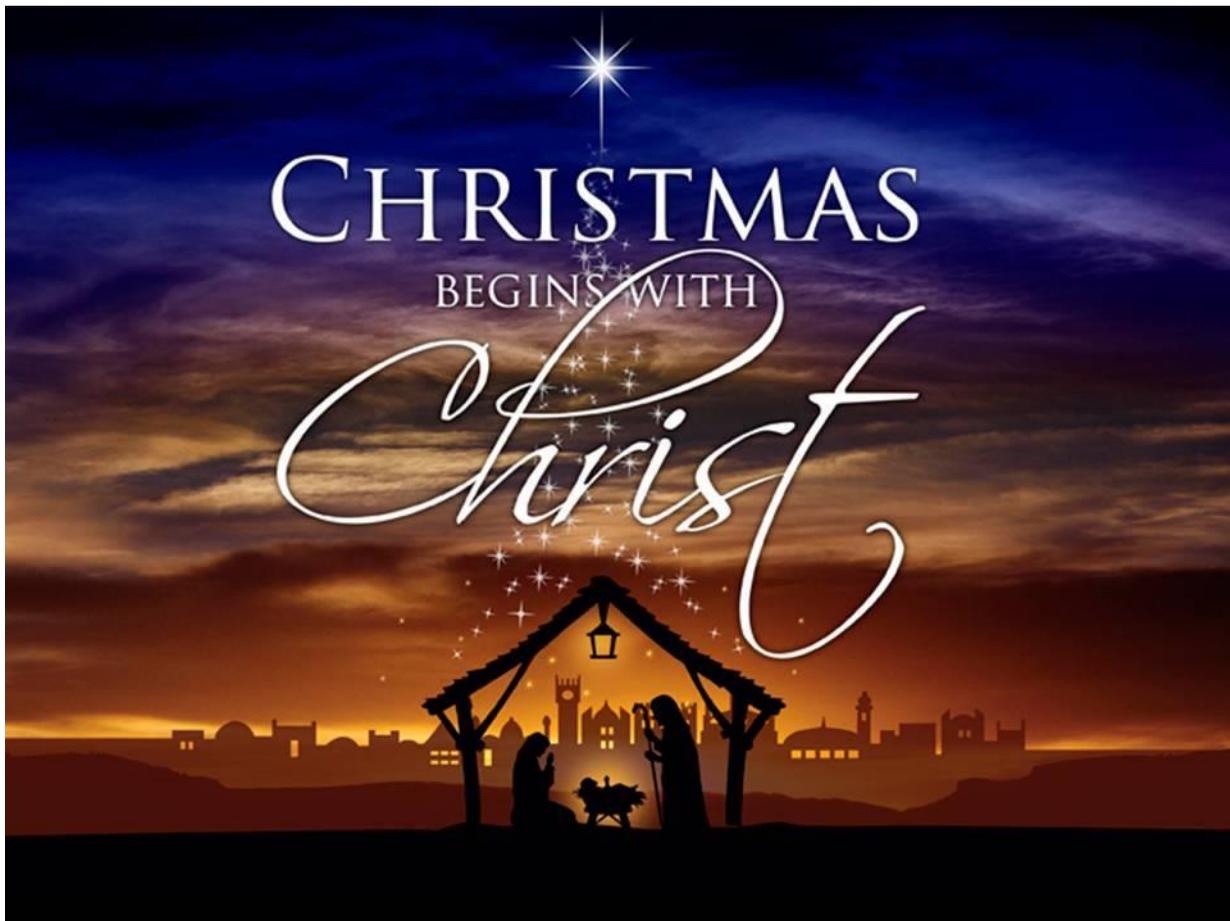
ADVENT WEDNESDAY SUMMARY

COME LORD JESUS...

Sermon copies are available in the Narthex and/or on our website

- ➔ **Week 1 – December 4: Come to Us through the Word... *It is vital, both weekly and daily, to receive and understand God's Word!* Use one of more of these resources for your daily time in the Bible: Bible, Portals, Meditations, Advent Devotional, or A Closer Look at the Evidence**
- ➔ **Week 2 – December 11: Come to Us to Change Our Hearts... *It is vital to be serious about and open to God's Word to actually receive the great benefits!***
- ➔ **Week 3 – December 18: Come to Us to Change Our Behavior... *It is vital to be familiar with our lost condition and God's saving work; then the joy will inspire us to change our behavior!***





Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com	Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible" (listen to the sermons)
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	Address:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office:	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	Kathy Green:	Secretary@blc7500.com ; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center:	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	Tricia Wise:	ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com ; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green:	RevRLGreen@aol.com ; 440-292-5915	Church Body:	lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org