

*** First Sunday after Christmas ***
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
December 27 & 28, 2025

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.** Also, please give attention to the written “News and Notes”.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints thank and praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must *“take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt”* (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He *“had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son’”* (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing *“his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses”* (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. *“He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them”* (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we *“receive adoption as sons”* in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: *“Abba! Father!”* (Gal. 4:4–6).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

387 Joy to the World

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

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 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.

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal

punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 ✖

Introit

Jeremiah 31:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1

P When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

C **Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.**

P Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

C **Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.**

P There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**ALL When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for
Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive
our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the
Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel

that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.

Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,

¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And
because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into
our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave,
but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

C Alleluia.

**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Offering (10:30)

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.
- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.
- 3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, 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.

Stand

- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Sermon

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life ✕ everlasting.
Amen.

Prayer of the Church

✖ Service of the Sacrament ✖

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty

Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
**C 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 \mathbb{X} 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 \mathbb{X} 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

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that "gluten free" communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant "gluten free" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant "clear" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

Distribution Hymns (please refer to the hymnal)

722 - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

374 - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

725 - Children of the Heavenly Father

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what
He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His
name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in
joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the
same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✺ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, princedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

2 O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the _eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Stand

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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Acknowledgments

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher **Rev. Patrick Niles**
Presiding Minister **Rev. Jeremy Hanson**

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Phil Ditter (5:30)**
Matt Tschudy (8:00)
Luther Bajus (10:30)

Communion Assistants

Jim Schmidt & Phil Ditter (5:30)
Luke Timm (8:00)
Luther Bajus (10:30)

Student Assistants

(A) Jaxon Freyberg & Luke Milatz (5:30)
(U) Sebastian Taylor & Brady Stelter (5:30)
(A) Adalyn Ursprung & Jaxon Virant (8:00)
(U) Amelia Flores & Charlotte Wheelan (8:00)
(A) Kaleb Allen & Juliet Calkins (10:30)
(U) Jax Fehlhaber & Hayley Haas (10:30)

The faculty at Bethlehem Lutheran School faithfully prays for the students entrusted to their care, along with their families.

As Bethlehem congregation members, please add these students and their families to your prayer list.

December Prayers

Charlotte & Bennett Wheelan
Jaxon, Griffin, and Maverick Virant

Annabelle White
Evelyn Grunewald
Hazel Gartman
Lilyahna Gabrielse

Ahnaleigh Tozier
Adam Dollevoet
Julia Detlaff

