



Family Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Opening Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

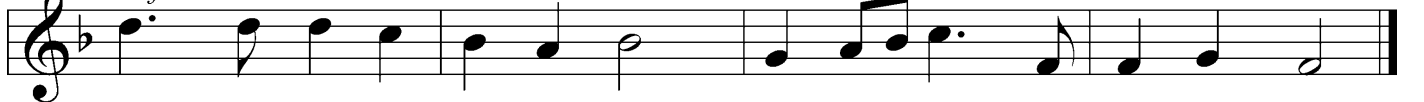


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Invocation & Sharing of Peace

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Jesus, the Son of God, is the Prince of Peace.

C: **God's peace is with us.**

P: Jesus brings forgiveness and peace between God the Father and us.

C: **God's peace is with us.**

P: Jesus brings forgiveness and peace between us.

C: **God's peace is with us. Amen.**

Everyone greets each other with words such as "God's peace is with you."

Advent Candle Prayers

First Candle---Hope

P: Jesus is our hope.

C: *Jesus is our hope.*

P: God, we pray for those who feel hopeless today. May your light begin to shine more brightly in their lives. Thank you for the hope we have through Jesus.

C: *Jesus is our hope. Amen.*

Second Candle---Peace

P: Jesus is our peace.

C: *Jesus is our peace.*

P: God, we pray for all who suffer from violence, for all who live in fear of violence. May your peace surround and protect them. Thank you for the peace you offer through Jesus.

C: *Jesus is our peace. Amen.*

Third Candle---Joy

P: Jesus is our joy.

C: *Jesus is our joy.*

P: God, we pray for those who are grieving and sad on this day of celebration. May they know the light of your joy, even if they cannot feel happy right now. Thank you that we can know joy through Jesus.

C: *Jesus is our joy. Amen.*

Fourth Candle---Love

P: Jesus is love.

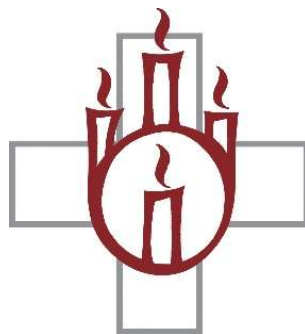
C: *Jesus is love.*

P: God, we pray for all people who feel unloved today. May they know your deep love for them. Thank you for showing us how much you love us through Jesus.

C: *Jesus is love. Amen.*

P: Hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus.

C: *Hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus.*



Today's Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

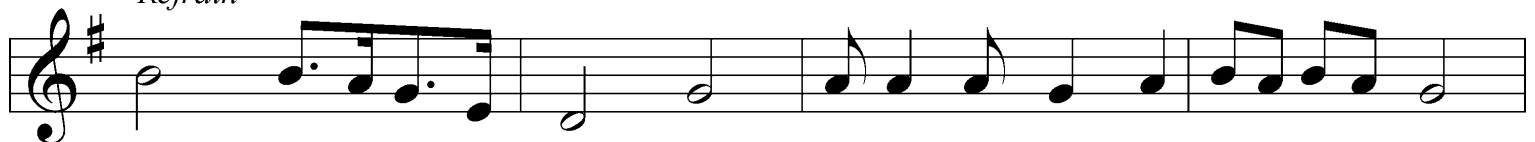
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a-bove the earth
3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Devotional Film – The Very First Noel

*Children may come up front
and sit on the floor, if they wish.*



Offering

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Closing Prayer

P: God, as we open our gifts and give gifts to each other, help us honor your great, amazing gift of Jesus. Let us know your presence with us as we celebrate today.

P: Hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus.

C: ***Hope, peace, joy, and love in Jesus. Amen.***

Benediction


Closing Hymn

First Noel


LBW #56



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star Three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, O'er . .




cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .
 Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, And . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay Right. . o - ver the

Refrain



night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three, And offered there in his presence
 Full rev'rently upon their knee, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain



Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias

Norm Balliet – To the glory of God;

Sheila Bunnell – (2 plants) In memory of Helen & Richard Tone;

Wayne & Kathy Henkel – In memory of Mavis Henkel;

Jim Franz – (3 plants) In memory of his mother, father, brother, sister and grandmother;

Chris Mason – (2 plants) In memory of Noreen Hyde, Helen & Earl Mason and Christine & Roy Roberts;

Midge & Bill Ratzburg – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Ted & Marlene Witt – To the glory of God;

Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) To the glory of God;

John & Karen Kozlik – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

The Sanders Family - To the glory of God;

The Rayos Family – In memory of Grace Moreland;

Holly Traynor - (4 plants) In memory of Sun Traynor, Muriel Adams and to the glory of God;

Victor Sundararaj – (2 plants) In memory of his father;

The Kazarian/Rasmussen/Souza Families – (4 plants) In memory of Grace Gibson, Art & Evelyn Rasmussen, Bill & Alice Souza, Mark Souza and Pat Souza-Rasmussen;

Elizabeth Blasko – In memory of Michael Yarusinsky;

Joan Blasko – (2 plants) In memory of parents & grandparents and to the glory of God;

The Squires Family - (2 plants) In memory of Pastor's grandparents Palmer & Mary;

The Kailer Family – (2 plants) In memory of Betty & Henry Schramm;

David & Cheryl Ross – (4 plants) In memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and George & Jean Ross;

Dawn Werfelmann – (2 plants) To the glory of God.

Your Poinsettia's will be available for pickup after the Christmas day worship service or arrange to pick them up with the church office the following week. Contact the church office at 847-244-9647 with any questions.

Come to Bethel, Come to Bethlehem

Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

6:30PM

Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

10:00AM

Worship with Communion



Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.

Advent candle liturgy and Closing Prayer adapted from "Family Worship" by Joanna Harader (<https://spaciousfaith.com/>).

Opening Peace adapted from Susan Lukey & the youth of High River United ©December 2014 (<https://www.highriverunitedchurch.org/>).

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