

The Christmas of Justice

In that Day,
there will be
no gloom for those
who were in anguish.

The Christ
will establish
justice and
righteousness.

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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TODAY'S ORDER OF SERVICE:
ADVENT PROPHETS INTO THE CHRISTMAS FULFILLMENT

This service draws from the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth,
and now reveal to us how Christmas is the fulfillment of those promises.

Anthem

Bethlehem Wind

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today.
Maintain this as meditative time.

Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, over the hills and the valleys.
Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, God's promise of love and salvation.
Blow, blow, Spirit of Truth, carry the news of a Saviour.
Blow, blow, Spirit of God, preparing the world for God's Son.

Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, carry the song of the angels.
Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, move through the hearts of the nations.
Blow, blow, Spirit of Hope, scatter the leaves of our sorrow.
Blow, blow, Spirit of God, warm the whole world with your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD.

C: And have now come!

P: When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people:

C: Jesus, the Promised Son of David, has now come into the flesh.

P: In these days the LORD's people are saved,

C: And His Church, His people, are secure in Him.

P: And this is the name by which the Church is called:

C: The LORD is our righteousness.

P: What does that name mean?

C: We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.

We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.

P: Let us remember our baptisms, when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

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!



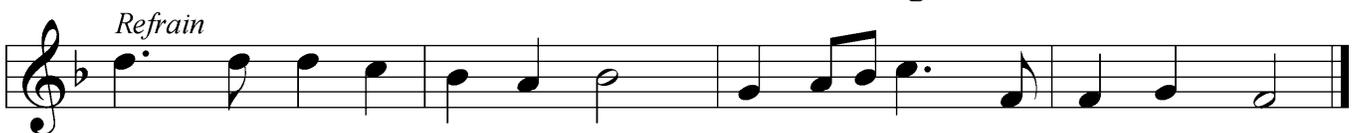
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



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.



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

Gradual (Words for Approaching Altar) Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 98:1a; antiphon (repeated): Matthew 1:21

P: Alleluia. Mary will bear a son, and she will call His Name Jesus,

C: **for He will save His people from their sins. Alleluia.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: **and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

P: And his name shall be called

C: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: **for he has done marvelous things!**

P: Alleluia. She has given birth to a son, and she has named Him Jesus,

C: **for He has saved His people from their sins. Alleluia.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: 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.*

Preparation for God's Word

based on Luke 2:30,32; Psalm 98:1-4; Malachi 3:1-7b

P: Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation;

C: *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,*

P: and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

C: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*

P: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

C: *The LORD has made known his salvation;*

P: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C: *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C: *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;*

P: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**C: *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.***

P: And the LORD declares to you today that His mercies are new every morning. He says: "I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself through His Son, Jesus. You have returned to the LORD through the work of the Holy Spirit. You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: And this is the name by which the Church is called:

C: *The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.*

Scripture Hymn

Came Upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,

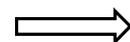


The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7(ESV)

- ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called



Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

1 John 4:7–16 (ESV)

7Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Song of the Shepherds

Adult Choir

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Born today is Christ the Lord! (repeat)

“Glory to God!” Hear the shepherds singing, “Glory to God!”

The angels’ song still ringing! “Glory to God!” all heav’n and earth reply!

Glory to God! The King is born tonight!

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Born today is Christ the Lord! (repeat)

“Glory to God!” Hear the shepherds singing, “Glory to God!”

The angels’ song still ringing! “Glory to God!” and peace to all the earth.

Glory to God! Proclaim the Savior’s birth!

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Run, see the Baby lying in a manger.

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Born today is Christ the Lord!

Run, shepherds, run and hurry to Bethlehem! Jesus is born this night!

Run, shepherds, run!

Versicles

Isaiah 9:2a; John 1:5; Isaiah 9:2b; John 1:14b; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:4

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: *The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not understood it.***

P: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

**C: *We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and only Son
who came from the Father.***

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: *In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25 (ESV)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: In many and various ways God spoke
to His people of old by the prophets.

C: *But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Acknowledgments

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

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Hymn of the Day**Angels We Have Heard on High**

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Sermon**"The Christmas of Justice"****Isaiah 9:2-7****Hymn of Response****O Little Town of Bethlehem**

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 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.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of the Church

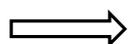
P: Almighty God, in the person of Your Son Jesus Christ, You reveal Your strength before the eyes of all nations. Grant that we may break forth in joyous song as we thank You for our redemption from sin, death, and the devil's power that has come down from heaven. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: Eternal God, in the mystery of Your holy incarnation and blessed nativity You took upon our human flesh. It is in the very flesh of Jesus that we behold Your glory, receive grace and understand Your truth. Increase our faith that we may be bold witnesses concerning the complete revelation of Your Word. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: With the shepherds, O Lord, we marvel at the miracle of Your nativity. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people so that, without



reservation, we would spread the good news of salvation revealed to us through the Word made flesh. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: O Lord, in humility, You who were rich became poor to redeem us from sin's curse. Comfort those who face economic challenges granting them courage to endure hardship; send them persons who would support and encourage them to look in trust to You. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: Almighty God, grant Your blessing to those in need. Banish their sadness, anxiety, and sorrow with the certainty of forgiveness and life everlasting. Cheer their weary spirits by Your gracious visitation. Keep us ever mindful that Your only begotten Son bears our burdens and grief. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: O Lord, in the Sacrament of Your body and blood You dwell with us and give us pardon from sin and peace everlasting. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins that we may wholeheartedly give thanks to You. Jesus Christ--the one and only Light--has come into the world;

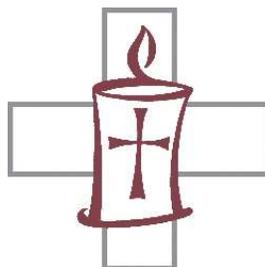
C: Oh come, let us worship Him.

P: Through the gracious works of our Prince of Peace, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

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.



Lighting of the Candles

(The Pastor lights the candles of the people at the center aisle who will pass the flame to the others in the row. Please turn the unlit candle sideways to receive the light; do not turn lit candles on their side. When all have received the light, the service continues with the liturgy.)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, sts. 1-2

1 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.

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!

Benediction

based on Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P: To you a child is born, to you a son is given;

and the government is upon his shoulder.

And his name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things for you,

in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363, st. 3

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.



Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias

Norm Balliet – To the glory of God;

Sheila & Stephanie Bunnell – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Ralph & Donna Danielsen – In memory of their parents;

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

Shannon Jaronik - (2 plants) In memory of Thomas Lumpp and Michele Jaronik;

Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) In appreciation of friends & family;

Wayne Henkel – In memory of his mother Mavis Henkel;

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

Maria Kube – (2 plants) In memory of husband Calvin;

Robert Livingston – To the glory of God;

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich – To the glory of God;

Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families – (3 plants) In memory of Grace Gibson, Art & Evelyn Rasmussen, Bill & Alice Souza and Mark Souza;

Jose & Claudine Rayos – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

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

Marilyn & Tom Robinson – In memory of their parents;

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

Diane Swanson – In appreciation of Bethel, her friend Betty Ebarly and to the glory of God;

Wendell Weger – In memory of Norma Sehr;

Dawn Werfelmann – (2 plants) In memory of Barbara & Harry Ketter and Jean Paul Richter III.

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.