



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at www.blcenc.org for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our 10:30 AM service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From "Everlasting Light:" "Glory to God," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Lamb of God" - Texts by David Eck, © 2011 David Eck, www.abiding.saviourlutheran.church.org; Tunes are in the Public Domain. "Light One Candle" - Text: Wayne L. Wold; Tune TIF IN VILDELE: Yiddish folk tune arr. Wayne L. Wold; Both © 1984 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. "He Came Down" - Text: Cameroon traditional; Tune: Cameroon trad. arr. John Bell, © 1990 Iona Community/WGRG North America. "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" - Text: Marie Wexelsen, tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, © 1932 Augsburg Fortress Publishers; Tune JER SA GLAD: Peder Knudsen, Public Domain. "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" - Text: African American spiritual, Public Domain; Tune WONDERFUL CHILD: African American spiritual, arr. Jeffrey Radford, © 1992 Pilgrim Press. For previous copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under [One license.net](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) License No. A-70621. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in the service obtained from One License with License #/A-706214.
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GATHERING

WELCOME

GATHERING LITANY

L: We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition, and fear.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.

L: We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.

L: We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.

L: We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.

L: God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverence in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord – ELW 286 vs. 1 - 3



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God” – Everlasting Light Liturgy – Verse 1



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Love Has Come – ELW 292 vs. 3



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The ABC's of Christmas"

Bethlehem Children's Choir – "Happy Birthday Jesus"

Congregational Singing During Program

O Little Town of Bethlehem – ELW 279

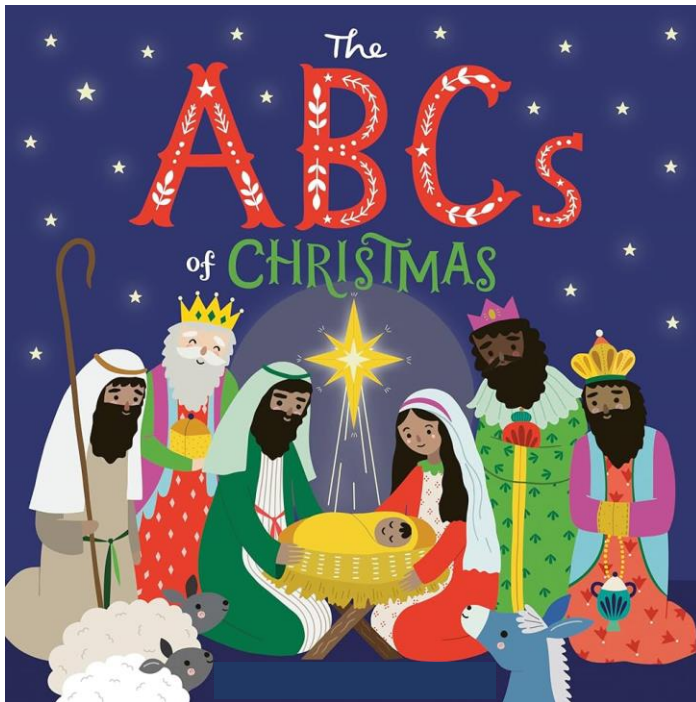
Hark the Herald Angels Sing – ELW 270

Joy to the World – ELW 267

Away in a Manger – ELW 277

Go Tell it On the Mountain – ELW 290

Silent Night – ELW 281



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you!

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

He Came Down – ELW 253 vs. 3 & 4



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

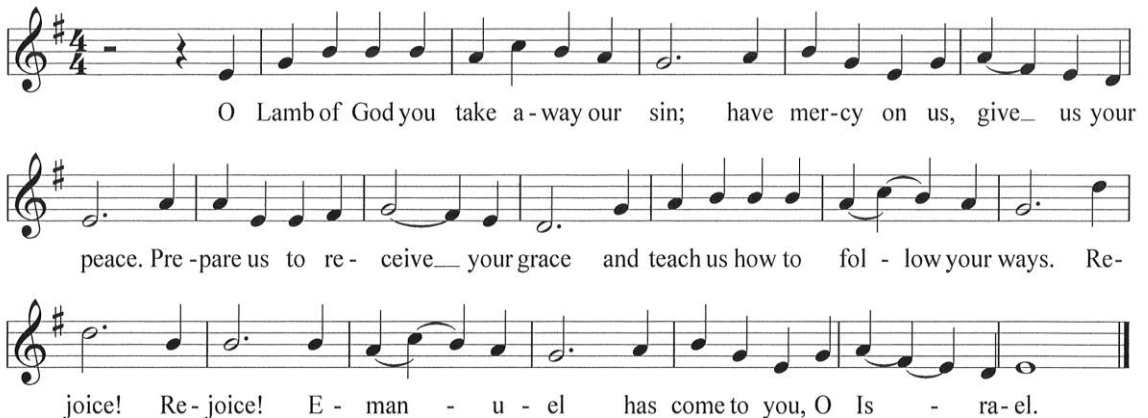
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION “Lamb of God” – Everlasting Light Liturgy



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-
joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;

- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
- 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
- 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child – ELW 297



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.



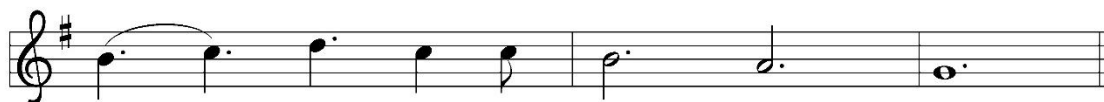
Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis-ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,



glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, prepare the way for Emmanuel!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website **www.blcenc.org** under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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