

# First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Bethany Lutheran Church

**Welcome Visitors.**

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.



## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We know that joy has a contagious ripple effect...

We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

**God is in our joy.**

God is in this room.

**We have reason to celebrate.**

We have a reason to sing.

**Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

## GATHERING HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41)



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

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

One of the most inherently joyful and beautiful moments in worship...

Joyful God,

You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven,  
we must be like children.

**Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?**

**Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?**

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,  
**this often seems easier said than done.**

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments  
when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.**

We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

**Open our hearts up to it.**

**With gratitude we pray, amen.**

God's beloved, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

That is news worth celebrating! That is news that should make us want to cheer, laugh, cry with relief, dance, and sing all at the same time! So in response to God's goodness, I invite you to rise in body or spirit and join me in the sung response. Let us make a joyful noise for God's abundant mercy.

## SUNG RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1) (ELW 289)*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. E. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

# HEARING & RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we know that you speak to us in the quiet... So on this Sunday morning we pray: **open our ears and hearts to hear what it is that you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we pray. We laugh. We listen. We pray. Amen.**

## LESSON ONE

Isaiah 9:2-3 <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

Luke 2:10-11 <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing  
you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this  
day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

## HYMN RESPONSE: Angels We Have Heard On High (Vs.2-3) (ELW 289)



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;



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.



Glo - ri - a



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



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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

# PRACTICE JOY (CHILDREN'S SERMON)

## LESSON TWO

Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

**<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.

**<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

**<sup>10</sup>Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**<sup>12</sup>Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

Matthew 2:10

<sup>0</sup>When [wise men] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

## HYMN RESPONSE O Come, All Ye Faithful Vs.1,3 (ELW 283)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## PRACTICE JOY

...The peace and joy of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us pass joy and peace to one another.

## LESSON THREE

### Psalm 126:1-3

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

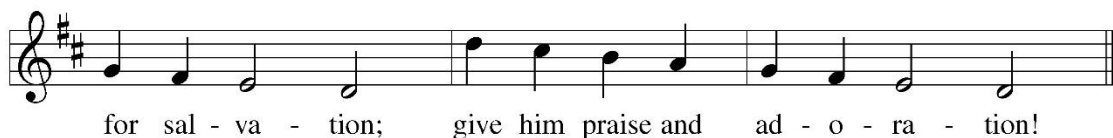
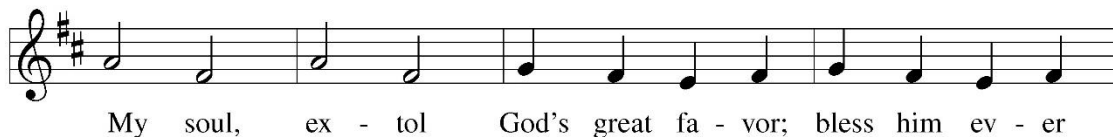
<sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Isaiah 55:12-13 <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
 and be led back in peace;  
 the mountains and the hills before you  
 shall burst into song,  
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
 instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
 and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## HYMN RESPONSE Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn (LBW 43)



Text: Birgitta K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937  
 Music: WIE, SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

## PRACTICE JOY

*“On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, we encourage you to come forward and hang your written prayers along the twine that is strung throughout the room. We also encourage you to place your tithes and offerings in the plates on the Communion Table. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will collect your prayers and offerings.”*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN *Go Tell It On the Mountain (ELW 290)*

*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.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Go in peace and go with joy, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

## **Announcements**

- You are welcome to stay for Coffee Fellowship. If you are able to serve or make treats, please let the office know or sign up on the white board in the narthex.
  - Please contact Karl Katuin, if you are able to help with snow removal.
  - December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm is Bethany's Christmas Eve worship.
  - December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 is East Lemonweir's Christmas Day Worship.
  - December 31<sup>st</sup> – Annual Meeting Reports are due.
  - Wednesday 9 am - No Bethany Quilting December 25th
  - Thursday 9 am – Bible Study resumes January 9th
  - Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany
  - January 19<sup>th</sup> – Bethany Annual Meeting January 26<sup>th</sup> – East Lemonweir Annual Meeting
  - January 25<sup>th</sup>- Prime Rib Dinner at East Lemonweir. Tickets are \$30/each. Proceeds go to their Outreach Program. Tickets available from Dawn Nelson or Jennifer Sarnow.
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### **Prayers of Concern:**

**Prayers** for those who cannot worship with us today.

**Prayers** for those who recently loss family and/or friends, especially the family and friends of Edna Hansen.

**Prayers** for Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother) Jordan McGuire & Baby Oliver, Kalie Lingl Gietner, Sandy (Gayle Hempel's Daughter), John Preston, Kathy Haske, Wyatt, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Elwood Syverson, Mickie (Ron & Patty Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marily Wetley, and others we silently name.

**Prayers** for those who serve to protect others.

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**Bethany/East Lemonweir Parish – [www.bethanyeast.com](http://www.bethanyeast.com) | [bethanyeast@mwt.net](mailto:bethanyeast@mwt.net)**

Pastor, Rev. Lucy Hardie      Parish Secretary, Betty Krotzman

Organist, Michaela Pedersen for Bethany.

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