

Children's Christmas Service



Bethel Lutheran Church Dec., 24 2017 5:00 pm

Welcome

Hymn The Friendly Beasts

- 1 Jesus our Brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude.
The friendly beasts around Him stood, Jesus our Brother, kind and good.
- 2 "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown, "I carried His mother up hill and down,
I carried His mother to Bethlehem town. I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
- 3 "I," said the cow all white and red, "I gave Him my manger for His bed,
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head. I," said the cow all white and red.
- 4 "I," said the sheep with curly horn, "I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm,
He wore my coat on Christmas morn. I," said the sheep with curly horn.
- 5 "I," said the dove from rafters high, "I cooed Him to sleep that He should not cry,
We cooed Him to sleep my mate and I. I," said the dove from rafters high.
- 6 Thus ev'ry beast by some good spell, In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel. The gift he gave Emmanuel.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle

Hymn Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for His bed - The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where He lay - The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes - But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky - And stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay - Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care - And fit us to Heaven to live with Thee there.

A Christmas Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all families,
Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircles the
Holy Family widen to embrace all families.
For this we pray.
Amen

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ .**

Hymn O Come, Little Children

- 1 O come, little children, O come, one and all. O come to the manger in Bethlehem’s stall and see the Lord Jesus asleep in the hay, the little Lord Jesus was born Christmas day.
- 2 He lies in the manger, the hay is His bed. The star, high in heaven, shines over His head. And Mary and Joseph look down on the boy, while shepherds and wise men kneel down in their joy.
- 3 Now “Glory to God!” comes the song from on high. And “Peace for all mankind!” we sing in reply. Then come, little children, be happy and gay! For Jesus, the Christ Child was born Christmas Day.

Children’s Time...*The Crippled Lamb* by Max Lucado with Jenna, Andrea, and Sara Lucado

Hymn What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayers of the People

Hymn Love Has Come

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Hymn Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tiding
bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!



Words of Institution

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.

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymns

Angels We Have Heard on High

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Prayer After Communion

Lighting the Candles

(A word of safety. Please dip the unlit candle to the lit candle. When extinguishing your candle, please cup your hand around the flame. Parents, keep watch on your children.)

Silent Night

- 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!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.



Blessing

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,
Bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

Amen

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you,
Fill your life with love and peace.

Amen

May Emmanuel, God with us,
Be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations,
Until he brings you into his eternal realm.

Amen

And may almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Bless you now and forever.

Amen

Hymn 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 all 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 sin and sorrow 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.

Sending

P: Go in peace, guided by the Light of Christ!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

