

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Teaching God's Word for our temporal and eternal benefit!

Services: Second Wednesday in Advent, December 7, 2016 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Series: **Perspectives on the Christ of Christmas**

Think about the FIRST Christmas, the very Son of God, the long promised Messiah, is finally born! The event was monumental, to say the least, but everyone also saw it from a different perspective. Therefore, this year, we will consider four perspectives – those of †God the Father, †Mary, †Elizabeth, and †Joseph.



## Sermon: The Perspective of Mary!

Based on Luke 1:26-38 NET

L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All

Today's service is **Vespers** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 229-234).

### PREPARATION:

1. **Bell:** Candle lighting. Please be seated.
2. **Visitors:** Please take a Visitor Packet (Narthex) and introduce yourself to the pastor!
3. **The Season of Advent:**  
L: He is coming!  
C: **Let us remain ready!**

### ↑ PSALM VERSES (Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1):

- L: O Lord, open my lips,  
C: **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
L: Hurry, O God, to deliver me;  
C: **hurry to help me, O Lord.**  
A: **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.**  
L: Praise to You, O Christ,  
C: **Our King who comes to save us.**

### OPENING HYMN:

**LSB 358, sts. 1, 3, 4**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

- 1 From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 3 This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
- 4 He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.

### ADVENT RESPONSORY:

L: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,

C: **When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.**

L: In His day Judah will be saved,

C: **And Israel will dwell securely.**

A: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

L: This is the name by which He will be called:

C: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

### SALUTATION and PRAYER:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: *Let us pray.* Our Father in heaven, as You worked through humble Mary to send Your Son into the world, so make us ever-aware of and obedient to Your plan for us, so that You are glorified and others are blessed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ↓

### SERMON HYMN – PART 1: LSB 351 sts. 1-3

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

Sing to the tune of LSB 344,  
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



- 1 Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting Light:  
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all  
And hear Thy servants when they call.

- 2 Thou, grieving that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
Hast found the healing, full of grace,  
To cure and save our ruined race.

- 3 Thou cam'st the Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eventide,  
The spotless Victim all divine  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine.

### SERMON and SCRIPTURE READING: The Perspective of Mary Luke 1:26-38 NET

***Thanks to Dr. Giessler for Preaching Today!***  
**See Today's Special Sermon Insert**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man by the name of Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>When the angel entered her home, he said, "Greetings, you who are greatly blessed. The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>She was startled by what he said and tried to figure out what such a greeting might mean. <sup>30</sup>The angel told her, "Stop being afraid, Mary. God has chosen to bless you. <sup>31</sup>You see: You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him JESUS; <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David; <sup>33</sup>He will be King over the people of Jacob forever, and His Kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>Mary asked the angel, "How can this be? I have had no relations [*sexual relations*] with a man." <sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come over you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. And for that reason the Holy Being to be born <of you> will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Also consider the fact that even Elizabeth, your relative, has conceived a son in her old age. People call her childless, but she is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>There is nothing that God will not be able to do."

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “Let it happen to me as you said.” Then the angel left her.

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**SERMON HYMN – PART 2: LSB 351 sts. 4-5**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

**Sing to the tune of LSB 344**

- 4 At whose dread name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things celestial Thee shall own,  
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.
- 5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread  
To judge the living and the dead,  
Preserve us from the ancient foe  
While still we dwell on earth below.

**OFFERING:** *Let us honor the Lord!*

Since God faithfully provides for us, let us honor Him  
by giving faithfully and proportionately!

⇒ **Offertory**

⇒ Please complete your attendance slip!

**↑ SERMON HYMN – PART 3: LSB 351 st. 6**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

**Sing to the tune of LSB 344**

- 6 To God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

**KYRIE, LORD'S PRAYER, OTHER PRAYERS:**

L: Let us pray:

L: *O Lord,*           **C: have mercy.**

L: *O Christ,*       **C: have mercy.**

L: *O Lord,*           **C: have mercy.**

L: Let us pray:

**A: Our Father who art in heaven...**

L: O Lord, hear our prayer.

**C: And let our cry come to You.**

L: *Dear Father in heaven, our sins have earned us hell, but, through Jesus, You have given us the gift of heaven, so move us to show our gratitude by loving You and others!*

**C: Amen.**

L: *Dear Father in heaven, as Mary gave up her own plans to bear and mother Jesus, so help us to give up our plans in order to follow what You have planned for us!*

**C: Amen.**

L: *Dear Father in heaven, we tend to limit You and even ourselves, yet You can do anything and even accomplish through us more than we can even imagine; therefore, may trust, optimism, and obedience characterize our lives!*

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

**C: Amen. ↓**

**CLOSING HYMN and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:**

**LSB 358, sts. 8, 12, 13**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

12 And so it pleases You to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

## Please Join Us

- ✦ **Free Meals:** Each Wednesday at 12 & 6; *skip your own preparation and gather with us!*  
**December 21:** Since Eileen K. will be out of town, your help is needed to coordinate the 6:00 meal; please contact Eileen!

## Help Us Decorate Our Church

- ✦ **Christmas Poinsettia:** *The order deadline is Dec. 12.* Cost is **\$10:** Use your attendance slip to order or call the church office.

## Let us worship our Great God who put on flesh to take away our sins!

- + **Sunday, December 11** – Services at 8 & 10:45
- + **Monday, December 12** – Service at 7 PM
  - Are You Staking Your Eternity on Jesus? Matthew 11:2-15
- + **Wednesday, December 14** – Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6
  - Perspectives on the Christ of Christmas – Part 3: Elizabeth! (Luke 1:39-45)
- + **Sunday, December 18** – Services at 8 & 10:45
- + **Monday, December 19** – Service at 7 PM
  - *Readings and hymns, which point to the coming Messiah!*
- + **Wednesday, December 21** – Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6
  - Perspectives on the Christ of Christmas – Part 4: Joseph! (Matthew 1:18-25)
- + **Saturday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM
  - New Brochure: Santa or Jesus
- + **Sunday, December 25** – Christmas Day Service at 10:00
  - LSB 367, Angels from the Realms of Glory
- + **Saturday, December 31** – New Year's Eve Service at 7 PM
- + **Sunday, January 1, 2017** – New Year's Day Service at 10:00
  - What's So Special about the Name of Jesus? Luke 2:21

## CONNECT WITH US

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com">BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com</a>	<b>Podcast:</b>	"Benefit from the Bible"
<b>Facebook:</b>	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	<b>Address:</b>	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
<b>Church Office:</b>	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	<b>Kathy Green:</b>	<a href="mailto:Secretary@blc7500.com">Secretary@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-845-2230
<b>Childcare Center:</b>	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	<b>Tricia Wise:</b>	<a href="mailto:ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com">ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-884-0430
<b>Pastor Green:</b>	<a href="mailto:Pastor@blc7500.com">Pastor@blc7500.com</a> ; 440-292-5915	<b>Church Body:</b>	<a href="http://lcms.org">lcms.org</a> <b>District:</b> <a href="http://oh.lcms.org">oh.lcms.org</a>