



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Know Jesus – Grow in the Bible – Excel in Loving God and Others!



Sunday, 12/24 at 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2017

Today's service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166).

WELCOME:

- ✓ **Bethlehem Lutheran:** We are a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church; we believe the Bible is God's Word and, *by God's grace*, we trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- ✓ **Each Week:** We gather, *as the baptized children of God*, to receive His blessings of Word and Sacrament!
- ✓ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and take a Visitor Packet from our Narthex!
- ✓ **Children:** Use our activity bags (by worship area entrance) and Children's Bibles (in some center pew racks); attend the children's message.
- ✓ **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the Narthex.
- ✓ **Please Participate:** C: Congregation; A: All

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

Self-Examination Questions:

1. Have I been baptized into Christ? *"...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"* (Galatians 3:27).
2. Am I sorry for my sins? *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation"* (2 Cor. 7:10).
3. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior? *"...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).
4. Do I desire to follow God's Word? *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path"* (Psalm 119:105).
5. Do I believe I will receive bread and Body, wine and Blood, for the forgiveness of my

sins? *"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"* (1 Cor. 10:16).

Who Can Receive Today? Those who answered "yes" to the five questions noted above. For others who want to receive, talk to the pastor.

To Receive at Your Pew: Notify an usher.

Not Receiving Today: All ages are invited to receive a spoken blessing; cross your arms.

Non-Members Who Want to Receive Often: Read the short booklet, [A Simple Explanation of Christianity](#) and the brochures (by our main entrance), and enroll in our Bible Basics Course.

DIVINE SERVICE PREPARATION:

1. **Bell:** Take a service folder and be seated. For a service folder on your smartphone: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder
2. **Phone:** Please silence at this time.
3. **Prayer by Pastor:** To bless our preparation.
4. **Prelude:**
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" W. Held
We listen and prepare in silence.

Confession and Absolution

↑ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION: Genesis 3

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- L: Almighty God, merciful Father, we know the devil wanted Eve to *doubt Your Word* when he asked her this question:
- C: **“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”**
- L: Then, *when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*
- C: **Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.**
- L: Dear Father, we have also sinned by *doubting Your Word, and going against You in thought, word, and deed*, so we pray:
- A: **Almighty God, ➔have mercy upon us, ➔forgive us our sins, and ➔lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- L: The LORD told the devil of his future defeat with these words: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* And now, *since the Son of God has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil, and on the basis of your confession*, I announce God’s forgiveness to you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

Please ✨face the entrance and ✨focus on Jesus!

The Service of the Word

ENTRANCE HYMN: LSB 338

Sing to the tune of LSB 409,
Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- 1 **Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;**

Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

- 2 **Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

KYRIE:

- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

- L: The LORD be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: *Let us pray.* Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,
- A: **that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy**
- L: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.** ✨ Children! *Please come forward!*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

What is Christmas?



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HYMN: LSB 357, st. 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

L: When the people of Israel, *the descendants of Jacob*, were being held captive, the LORD came to their rescue; so Pharaoh ...summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!" The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead" (Exodus 12:31-33 ESV).

HYMN: LSB 357, st. 2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord' rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 ESV

L: David wanted to build a temple for the LORD:

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan

the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

L: In this next part: "The Lord tells David and Nathan not what they will do but what He will do and make for David—an everlasting house and kingdom" (TLSB).

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"" ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house....

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: “In all we do for the Lord, we must first consult His Word to find out what is pleasing to Him. Jesus Christ is the ‘rest’ and ‘house’ promised to David. In Him, God’s people have rest from their enemies of sin and death, and in Him they shall dwell forever” (TLSB).

HYMN: **LSB 357, st. 3**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

L: This prophecy points to the conception of Jesus, that *God would come to be with us* through the womb of a virgin: Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:10-14 ESV).

HYMN: **LSB 357, st. 4**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. **Refrain**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

L: This is a powerful prophecy about the Messiah who came, our Lord Jesus Christ:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins (Isaiah 11:1-5 ESV).

↑ HYMN: **LSB 357, st. 5**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 ESV

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

L: “The angel Gabriel announces Jesus’ birth to Mary, who responds in faith” (TLSB).

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

L: Mary was favored by God, not because of a special quality in her, *but because He loved her and chose her to be the one through whom His Son would come into the world.*

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-- the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

L: Mary did not doubt but wondered how, so *Gabriel told her*. He also offered her proof by telling her about Elizabeth being pregnant in her old age. Let us also be certain that nothing is impossible with God!

HYMN: **LSB 357, st. 6**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Ref.**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

EPISTLE: Romans 16:25-27 ESV

L: “Paul’s closing words [*in his letter to the Christians in Rome*] encompass the entire good news of God, from the prophetic OT writings to the proclamation of Jesus Christ being made known to all nations. God’s eternal being, His wisdom, knowledge, and power, are all far beyond ours. He calls those of faith to respond in obedience to His will” (TLSB).

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith--²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L: The Word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN: **LSB 357, st. 7**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

↑ **APOSTLES' CREED**

Go to the back of either hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *Let Us Pray*

After Each Petition:

L: LORD, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

See today's Participation Guide!

Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

OFFERING: *We have given you only what comes from your hand*' (1 Chron. 29:14 NIV).

➔ **Offertory: "What Is This Lovely Fragrance"**
Paul Manz (Carol of Beauty)

➔ Please complete your attendance slip!

➔ Before Communing Prayer: Front of LSB.

The Service of the Sacrament

↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

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 Him thanks and praise.**

L: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (LSB 161) ("Hosanna" – save us now):

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: *Let Us Pray*

L: Dear LORD, in the beginning You created all things by the Word, who is Your only begotten Son; then, *because of our sin and in the fullness of time*, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Now, with repentant hearts, as we receive the body He gave and the blood He shed, *make us certain of Your forgiveness*; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER:

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *On Good Friday*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

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

C: **Amen.**

HYMN: **LSB 346, st. 3**

When All the World Was Cursed

3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win. ↓

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LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION:

- † Opportunity: It's available, but not required.
- † Reception: Thoughtfully, not mechanically.
- † Come with Sorrow: Jesus took our punishment.

- † Reception Options: Receive His Body *in your hand or on your tongue*, His blood *from an individual cup or from the chalice* (the center cups in each tray are alcohol removed wine).
- † Return with Joy: *Your sins are forgiven!*
- † After Communing Prayer: Front of LSB.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

↑ POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

L: Gracious God, *heavenly Father*, You have given us Your Son – the Christ, He has won our salvation, and we – *by Your grace* – have received the benefits of His work: *The forgiveness of our sins!* Now, *remembering our great need and benefitting from your great rescue*, we give You our thanks; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 332, sts. 1-4 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,

Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

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BENEDICTION: *Receive and Be Blessed*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you with *favor* and give you peace.

C: Amen. ↓

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING: "Now We Sing of Christmas" Noel Nouvelet

SPECIAL BLESSINGS FOR YOU:

- ♦ Receive Prayer: Meet up front with: Millie (10:00)
- ♦ Participation Guide: See today's insert!

OUR UPCOMING SPECIAL DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Sunday EVENING**, December 24: **Christmas Eve** at 6 PM
- **Monday MORNING**, December 25: **Christmas Day** at 10 AM
- **Sunday MORNING**, December 31: **One Service at 10 AM**
- **Sunday EVENING**, December 31: **New Year's Eve** at 6 PM

The NEW Portals of Prayer are available in the Narthex!

Offering Envelopes for 2018:

- ✓ They are now available in the Narthex.
- ✓ For all who give in agreement with God's Word, *thanks so much!*
- ✓ For all who are unsure what God's Word says, see the brochure called "Tithing" "What Does the Bible Say?" Copies are available on the wall by our main entrance.
- ✓ For all who know what the Bible says, I urge you to follow through:
 - For your sake, *since God promises to bless you!*
 - For the sake of your congregation, *since your support is needed for us to be a healthy congregation!*

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 12/24 at 10:00 AM

Leader: Pastor Robert Green
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Kathy Green, Stacey Jasulevich
Candles: Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Natalia Ford, Paul Martens

10:00 Service

Ushers: Jim Cannonie, Ray Klesch, Paul Moyer, Klaus Kitzler, John Haller
Pastor Team: Dave Kaderbek / Jerry Huttner
Prayer Partner: Millie Sluka

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 12/31 at 10:00 AM

Leader: Pastor Robert Green
Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Eileen Kovach, Nancy Burton
Candles: Lynda Tomasch
Financial Team: Natalia Ford,

10:00 Service

Ushers: Jim Cannonie, Ray Klesch, Paul Moyer, Klaus Kitzler, John Haller
Pastor Team: Dave Kaderbek / Jerry Huttner
Prayer Partner: Dee Kaderbek / Ray Dmytriw

Connect With Us

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