

***Bethel  
Lutheran  
Church***



***Worship Times***

*Sunday School  
11:30 A.M.*

*Divine Worship  
1:00 P.M.*

*Rev. Ulmer  
Marshall Jr.,  
Pastor*

*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah*



# JOY TO THE WORLD

**Stir Up the Power of Promises Kept**

**December 23, 2018**

**AS WE GATHER**

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). The birth of Jesus is a day of promise fulfilled. In Jesus' name, which means "God saves," we are given confidence to live faithfully because our salvation comes not from our.

## PREPARATION

**PRAISE WORSHIP – Minister Terry Dale & Combined Choir**

**Emmanuel**

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** Worship Christ the newborn King! His name is Jesus.

**People:** **He comes to save us from our sins.**

**Pastor:** His title is Immanuel.

**People:** **He is God with us.**

**Pastor:** Today we rejoice!

**People:** **For God has kept His precious promise to us.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Amid our Christmas joy, let us confess our sins.

**People:** **Mighty God, on this day of celebration, we confess our sin to You. We are by nature sinful. Without Your help, we are powerless to overcome it. We confess our impatience with You and with others, our seeking after worldly passions, and our self-indulgent ways of**

**life. By our sin, we have hurt others, ourselves, and You. We plead with You to forgive our sins for the sake of Christ and to transform our broken lives.**

**Pastor:** In Jesus, God kept His promise to save us from our sins. In Jesus, God is present with us even to the end of the age. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **WELCOME - Mrs. Elvina Peterson**

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2*

**Pastor:** The people who walked in darkness

**People:** **have seen a great light;**

**Pastor:** those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

**People:** **on them has light shined.**

**Pastor:** The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;

**People:** **the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.**

**Pastor:** Yes, the world is established;

**People:** **it shall never be moved.**

**Pastor:** Your throne is established from of old;

**People:** **You are from everlasting.**

**Pastor:** Your decrees are very trustworthy;

**People:** **holiness befits Your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

**ALL:** **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.**

**Pastor:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Angels We Have Heard on High” [LMGM 17]

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains and mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the

tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth angels sing; come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

## **CHRISTMAS PLAY – SCENE 1**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You sent Your Son to be born into this world as a flesh-and-blood human being, so that we are now saved from the eternal consequence of sin through His cross. Help us to receive this amazing gift with gratitude, that our lives may be shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, live and reign forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER – Deacon Cedric Edwards**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:6-7***

9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Solo – Clania Edwards**

## HYMN      “Joy to the World” [TLH 87]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love.

## CHRISTMAS PLAY – SCENE 2

### GRADUAL

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

Leader: To us a child is born,

**People: to us a son is given;**

Leader: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**People: And His name shall be called**

Leader: Wonderful Counselor,

**People: Mighty God,**

Leader: Everlasting Father,

**People: Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**People: for He has done marvelous things!**

### EPISTLE / *John 4:7-16*

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

4:12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **VERSE** *John 1:14*

Leader: Alleluia!

**People: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,**

Leader: and we have seen His glory,

**People: glory as of the only Son from the Father,**

Leader: full of grace and truth.

**People: Alleluia!**

## **HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 1:18–25

(God's promise fulfilled)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is read.)*

**1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

**1:19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

**1:20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

**1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

**1:22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

**1:23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

**1:24** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

**1:25** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE COMBINED CHOIR

### SERMON

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### THE GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN "Jesus, The Light Of The World" [TFBF 59]

Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world; "Glory to the newborn King." Jesus, the Light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Joyful, all you nations rise, Jesus the Light of the World; join the triumph of the skies; Jesus, the Light of the World. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the World; hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the Light of the World! We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

## HYMN      “Go Tell it on the Mountain” [TFBF 52]

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

## SOLO – Tylon Quaites

### APOSTLE CREED

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**People: O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!** [St. 4: LSB 361; LW 59; TLH 647; CW 65]

**Leader: Father, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, sending Your Son into our world wrapped in our flesh as a tiny child to forgive our sins.**

**People: Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**



**People:** 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 take us to heaven to live with Thee there. [St. 3: *LSB* 364; *LW* 64; *CW* 68]

**Leader:** Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us. You gave up heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

**People:** Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.

**People:** Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart for You to dwell within my heart.

[St. 13: *LSB* 358; *LW* 37; *TLH* 85; *CW* 38]

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your infinite love for us, gathering us together through the waters of Baptism.

**People:** Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received in faith, and kept unto life eternal. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

**6:10** Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

**6:11** Give us this day our daily bread.

**6:12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

## **PRAISE DANCE**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** Christmas peace and joy through God's infinite love given in Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, — Son, and Holy Spirit—be and abide with you forever.

**People:** Amen.

**CLOSING SELECTION ..... THE COMBINED CHOIR**

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