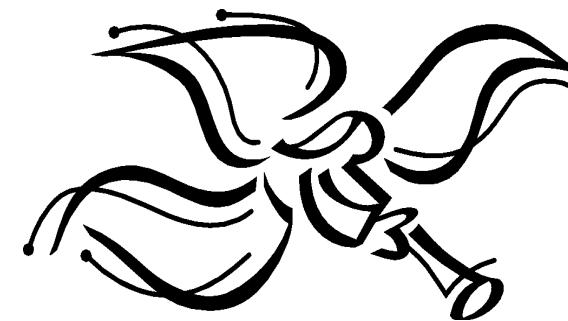


Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025, 8:00 p.m.



PRELUDE



Handbell Choir

Miles Wright

Coventry Carol

I Wonder as I Wander

Chip Davis

John Jacob Niles

Beth Eden Lutheran Church

Newton, North Carolina

Email: bethedenlutheran@gmail.com

Church Office: (828) 464-3331

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship



+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit gathers us for worship.

Stand

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

P: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 283 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

GREETING

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C: **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C: **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

P: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C: **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: As we light the Christ candle on the Advent wreath, let us pray that the light of Christ would shine in and through us: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as the light on our wreath is now complete. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share His love with all the world, for He is our light and our salvation. Blessed be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit



+ WORD +

The Word of God, Jesus Christ, speaks to us.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

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

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impurity and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL PROCESSION *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Verses 1 and 2

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
 gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing
 he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 promised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be -
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
 have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 A - men.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Verses 3 through 5

Luke 2:1-20

Sit

SERMON

Home for Christmas

Pastor Marcus Ollis

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 270 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

NICENE CREED

A: With the whole church we confess our faith with the Nicene Creed:

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE AND OFFERING

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

As you greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you," we thank you for joining us in sharing God's love. You can share your gift either by scanning the QR code provided or placing your offering in the offering plate as you leave worship.



Frances Meier

ANTHEM

Winter Carol

Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of abundance,

C: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ MEAL +

We gather at the Table of our Lord to share His Supper.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Opening Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer with Words of Institution for Christmas

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C: 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.



Frances Meier

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your King.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN ELW 296

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to receive Communion at Christ's table. Ushers will invite you to the altar rail for communion. You may kneel or stand. After communing, you may remain at the rail for private prayer or return to your seat. If you are not communing, you may come forward and receive a blessing by bowing your head and folding your hands in prayer.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

ELW 274

On Christmas Night

SUSSEX CAROL

Stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

The Holy Spirit sends us forth to serve in Jesus' name.

BLESSING

P: May you glory in the birth of the Son of God, and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

CANDLE LIGHTING

*The ushers will give light to the first worshiper in each pew. Pass it to those around you. **Remember, a lighted candle is never tipped.** Worshippers will follow the procession out, those in the front pews going first. Gathered outside, we will then sing the first verse of "Joy to the World."*

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*
 1. *Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,*
 2. *Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake*
 3. *Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,*

2. *ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

3. *Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

4. *Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

The Reverend Marcus Ollis, Pastor
 Connor Hendricks, Director of Faith Formation

Daniel Lail, Choir Director
 Frances Whitener, Organist

Allen Sherrill and Jody Alexander, Assisting Ministers
 Jacob Ollis, Acolyte
 Ada Ervin and Adrienne Mullinax, Torch Bearers
 John Mullinax, Crucifer
 Michelle Romero Gonzalez, Trumpet
 Mike Sherrill, Percussion



THE FLOWERS by the altar are given to the
 Glory of God
 and in loving memory of
 Patsy and Levon Deal
 and Caleb Lee Deal
 by
 Your Children



Merry Christmas!
May the radiance of
Christ's light
fill you today and
throughout the coming year.