

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 2018**  
**10:00am**

**INTRODUCTION**

*On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**                      **“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”**                      **# 288 ELW**  
(please stand on the last verse)

**CHRISTMAS DIALOG**

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

**We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.**

God of all humanity, You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

**We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.**

God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

**We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.**

God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

**We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.**

God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

**We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, now and in the life to come.**

God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

**Amen. Alleluia!**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, ✝ one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

*Silence for self reflection*

Gracious God,

**in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ✝ Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **Psalm Psalm 95: 1-7**

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

The Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN:**

**“Love Has Come”**

**# 292 ELW**

*Please Stand*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

*A brief silence.*

We give you thanks for the body of Christ in every land. Your people stand for peace and joy, like sentinels on the mountain. We pray for continued wisdom to live your will. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for this beautiful world—for waterways, deserts, forests, and prairies; for creatures large and small; for plants that feed and offer shelter. We pray for continued good care of our earth, our home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the many nations on earth—for people who teach us new ways to dance and to sing; for languages that help us learn new names; for unfamiliar foods and spices. We pray for a sense of adventure. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for those who see the struggles of neighbors and offer help. We pray for newborns and the aged; for those who are in mourning and those who fight depression; for refugees and homeless people; for those with no one to accompany them in their final days; and for those we name in our hearts or aloud (*a brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our sisters and brothers in faith—for all people of the book; for seekers and questioners; for skeptics and the resolute. We pray that your generous Spirit will comfort and challenge us throughout the coming year. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). As you cradle your people in your merciful arms, bring us at last with all the saints into life eternal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.** *Please be seated*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**“Joy to the World”**

**#267 ELW**

**OFFERING**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.  
Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Teach us to boldly pray in the words our Savior gave us:

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Invitation to Communion**

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!  
All are welcome! (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Sleep In Heavenly Peace” Randy Tofteland**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of wonder,  
**in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you, ☩ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High” #289 ELW**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.*

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal & Randy Tofteland

Greeters: George & Kathy Larson Ushers: 8:30am Skip & Lynn Hansen

***Thank you for your service!***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!** All are welcome to stay and enjoy a Christmas meal together immediately following today's worship service.

**ONE SERVICE** only one Sunday Service, at 9:00am, for the months of January, February & March, 2019

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** When you see your loved ones this holiday season, invite the kids ages 4 – 5th grade to Vacation Bible School June 17-21, 2019. Sixth graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

**CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES in 2019** Each month you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a \$1 chance, while also decorating the fellowship hall. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019. Watch the bulletin and Newsletter for more details. If you are a snow bird, mail your money or prepay to participate for each month you are gone. You don't want to miss out on the fun and prizes!

**2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS** are here! These will make great last minute Christmas gifts! Only \$10 and available in the Fellowship Hall after service today and for weeks to come.

**PICTURE DIRECTORIES** are here! If you had your picture taken please pick up your complementary directory in the Fellowship Hall. If you didn't have your picture taken, updated smaller directories are available in the Fellowship Hall.

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***BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE ON THIS  
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS MORNING.  
GO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS—  
CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!!***

### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123)

Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Muske



## POINSETTIA Donations



<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Marilyn Andrews	Dave & Parents
Carol Bakken	Maynard
Pat & Jerry Becker	Parents
Char & Roy Berg	Parents
Kathy Berland	Brent (son)
Judy Birk	Family
Jeannine Bruesewitz	Darwin & Parents
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Parents
Richard & Karen Carron	Family
Lee & Barb Forrester	Family
Del & Dianne Jones	Parents
Merrily Jones	Husband & Parents
Ron & Arty Heins	Warren & Mary Heins & Art VanDriel
Darrell Kelly	Family & Friends
Craig & Pat Kullberg	Thanksgiving for Family
Jerry & Carolyn Morris	
Keith & Dorothy Munding	Loved Ones
Pastor James Muske	Family (2)
Al & Sue Samuelson	Parents & Family
Penny Sjoquist	Family
George & Patti Smith	Our Fathers: Joe & David
Dick & Sue Stebbins	Loved Ones
Dave & Joanne Stueven	Our Family
Mary Swanson	Del & Jenny
Sylvia Tapelt	Family
Mark & Mary Vukelich	Family
Bev Wedig	Al & Jen

*Thank you to those who have made donations for the beautiful flowers to decorate our sanctuary!*