

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**Christmas Day**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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

**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25, 2023**  
**10:00am**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**MONTHLY TITHING** For your convenience we have direct deposit forms in the Narthex. You can sign up indefinitely or sign up for a few months if you're going south for the winter.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2024 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

**POINSETTIAS** Please take your poinsettia home after service today if you ordered one.

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**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” #275 ELW**

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**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*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270 ELW



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



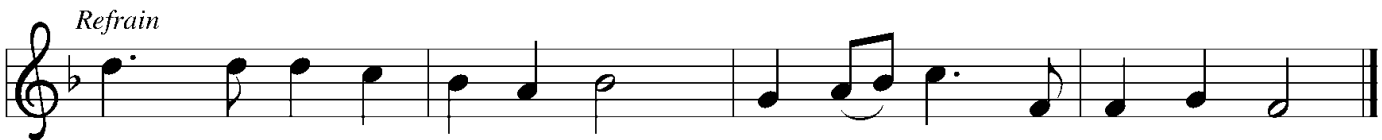
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

## GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

### Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself

was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### The Gospel of the Lord ~ Praise to You, O Christ

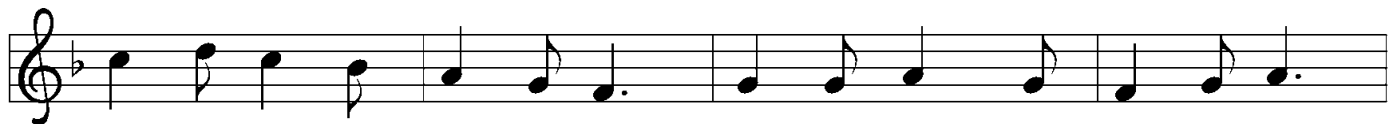
*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: "Good Christian Friends" #288 ELW



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Please Stand*

## **NICENE CREED**

**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**

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Christ is born and your Spirit is poured out upon us. Renew your church through the gift of baptism. Unite your faithful people across both distance and denomination. Teach us to live by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal your presence over the heights of the mountains, through the cloud and lightning, and beyond the trembling of the earth. Still the storms that threaten the lands and send relief to all places and peoples experiencing natural disasters, extreme temperatures, or famine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let all the ends of the earth know the promise of your reconciliation and renewal. Make beautiful the work of peacemakers, community organizers, and advocates who work to ensure that all people flourish in safety and dignity (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, be our comfort and our redemption. Seek out all who feel forsaken or forlorn, especially those who are marginalized because of their race, sexuality, gender expression, or immigration status. Heal all who struggle in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Following the example of Mary and Joseph, let all our families, whatever their shape or size, reflect your holy and life-giving love. Bless adoptive families, foster families, and guardians. Hold in mercy all who are childless, by choice or by life circumstance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

As you have guarded the lives of the saints, so shield us from evil and danger. Teach us by their example to serve you with joy and honesty of heart, that we live as heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING** - *Please be seated as the Ushers pass the offering plate.*

*Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to**



**share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**Amen**

### **CLOSING HYMN: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” #290 ELW**

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**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  
Greeters: Sharon Whipple  
Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven  
Hospitality: Potluck Dinner

*Thank you for your service!*

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



## POINSETTIA Donations



<u>Name</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Char & Roy Berg	Parents
Maynard & Kathy Berland	Berland Family
Judie Birk	Family
Libby Brown	Family
Chuck & Elsa Carlson	Parents
Lee & Barb Forrester	Family
Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert	Family
Del & Dianne Jones	Jack Spetz
Darrell Kelly	Family
Carolyn Morris	Jerry
Dorothy Munding	Loved Ones
Pr. James Muske	Family
Wayne & Janice Olson	Family & Friends
Darlene Ryan	Joe Ryan
Jenny Schuett	Loved Ones
Gary & Brenda Sjerven	Dad's who've passed
Penny Sjoquist	Family
Dick & Sue Stebbins	Loved Ones
Dave & Joanne Stueven	Family
Sylvia Tapelt	Sister
Bev Wedig	Al, Jen & Travis

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