

Sunday December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, 2023

3:30pm & 5:00pm

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

CHRISTMAS DAY worship in person or live stream on YouTube at 10:00am.
Potluck dinner to follow. Signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 25 thru December 31, 2023

Monday	12/25	9:00am	Worship in Person or Live Stream Potluck Dinner to follow
		7:00pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/26	9:00am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	12/27	9:00am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/28	8:00am	ROMEOS
		9:15am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	12/31	9:00am	Worship in Person or Live Stream

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,
sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,
so we dream and wait for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us,
more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,
and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

ANNUNCIATION & MAGNIFICAT

Pastor & Sherry Whipple

The Annunciation

Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

Leader An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High.” And Mary said, “I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will.”

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46–55



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

(Please be seated)

OPENING HYMN:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#283 ELW



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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.

Word of God. Word of Life ~ **Thanks be to God**

PSALM Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² **let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

(Please stand for the Gospel)

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. ² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. ³ Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. ⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. ¹⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹ Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." ¹⁵ When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what

the Lord has revealed to us.”¹⁶ They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child.¹⁸ Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean.²⁰ The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

GOSPEL RESPONSE: “Joy to the World” (vs. 1) #267 ELW

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

SERMON

HYMN Of The DAY: “Joy to the World” (vs. 2-4) #267 ELW

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.	4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.
3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.	

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.

Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints (*especially*) who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. 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.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate

OFFERING MUSIC:

“Christmas Medley”

Terry Bird

OFFERING - *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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: "Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...and nations shall come to your Light. Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.' "You are the light of the world...let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

(Pastor then gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshipper in each pew, who passes it on. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Please extinguish your candle when you see the Pastor extinguish his.)

HYMN:

"Silent Night"

#281 ELW

(repeat 1st verse, acapella, at the end)



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,



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,



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



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

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.

HYMN

"Angels we have Heard on High"

#289 ELW



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

It has been great having you join us for worship!

Please come again.

SERVING THIS NIGHT

Greeters: 3:30pm – Gary Sjerven

5:00pm – Sharon Whipple

Ushers: 3:30pm – Mark & Mary Vukelich

5:00pm – Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 17th: 9:00 am 85

Online: xx



POINSETTIA Donations



Name

Char & Roy Berg

Maynard & Kathy Berland

Judie Birk

Libby Brown

Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Lee & Barb Forrester

Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert

Del & Dianne Jones

Darrell Kelly

Carolyn Morris

Dorothy Munding

Pr. James Muske

Wayne & Janice Olson

In Memory/Honor of

Parents

Berland Family

Family

Family

Parents

Family

Family

Jack Spetz

Family

Jerry

Loved Ones

Family

Family & Friends

Darlene Ryan
Jenny Schuett
Gary & Brenda Sjerven
Penny Sjoquist
Dick & Sue Stebbins
Dave & Joanne Stueven
Sylvia Tapelt
Bev Wedig

Joe Ryan
Loved Ones
Dad's who've passed
Family
Loved Ones
Family
Sister
Al, Jen & Travis

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