



December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Today's worship service is a presentation of "The Gifts" by Louise Cunningham. Our youth will lead our worship this morning. Blessings to you as this message is a reminder to all of us the great importance of Jesus becoming human and the gifts God gives to us.

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

- ♪ Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
~Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
♪ Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...
♪ Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Opening *Please Be Seated*

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they

saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Handbell Choir

“Joyful, Joyful”

Opening Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- ♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- ♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
- ♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.
- ♪ 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!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361 -Text: Phillips Brooks 1835-93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner 1831-1908;
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

The Setup

Setup Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- ♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:
~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
- ♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...
- ♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...
- ♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

First Gift

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

- ♪ It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- ♪ Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

- ♪ All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
 Who toil along a dreary way
 With painful steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.
- ♪ For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
 When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 366-Text: Edmund H. Sears 1810-76;
 Tune: Richard S. Willis 1819-1900; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Second Gift

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

- ♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
 ~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.
- ♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? ~Glo-ria...
- ♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862
 Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Third Gift

Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

- ♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- ♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- ♪ 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.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364-Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia 1885, vv. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville 1892, v.3
 Tune: James R. Murray 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Fourth Gift

Hymn

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16th cent.;
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Fifth Gift

Hymn

“Joy to the World”

♪ 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.
♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, 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,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, 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,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;
Setting: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Sixth Gift

Offering and Musical Offering

Handbell Choir

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;
Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber 1787-1863; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude