

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus *December 31, 2020*

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The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting One (LSB 151)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an *)*

Opening Hymn: O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly **LSB 897**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 151**

Introit* (Ps. 40:6-8; antiphon: 4:16)

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Behold, I have come;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I desire to do your will, O my God;

your law is within my heart."

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Kyrie* **LSB 152**

Gloria in Excelsis* **LSB 154**

Collect: Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Numbers 6:22-27

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴ The LORD bless you

and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

LSB 382

Alleluia*

LSB 156

Holy Gospel*: Luke 2:21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed*

LSB 158

Hymn of the Day: The Ancient Law Departs

LSB 898

Sermon

Prayer of the Church*

We Give Thee But Thine Own* (stz. 1 & 2) LSB 781

Service of the Sacrament* LSB 160

Distribution Hymns: 726, 899, 900

Post-Communion Canticle*: Thank the Lord LSB 164

Benediction*

Closing Hymn: Abide, O Dearest Jesus LSB 919

Announcements

All Church Officers: On January 3rd we will be installing all new officers and recognizing all outgoing officers in the 9:30am Divine Service.

Future Services: Desiring to gather together as one church body again, on Sunday, January 3rd, we will be going back to the one service at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. We will also be returning the hymnals to the pews and taking the ropes down. For those who are concerned about this, feel free to call Pastor Jennings or stop by the church throughout the week to set up a time to receive God's gifts.

Annual Report: The time is drawing near for the Annual Report to be printed. If all organizations (Men's Club, Ladies Aid, Agape Youth, Preschool, Cemetery Committee, Treasurers, Wednesday Night Religion and Confirmation, Cradle Roll & any others I may have missed) would please get me their reports by **January 13th** so that I may put the report together by January 17th voter's meeting. Thank You

Flower Chart: The flower chart for 2021 is up in the north office. Please stop by and sign up for any Sundays you would like to have flowers on the altar. Any questions, please contact Sylvia Kleiboeker.

Private Confession and Absolution: Our Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time throughout the penitential season of Advent you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, and Acolytes: We encourage you to consult your schedule, and if able, assist at your assigned service.

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