



**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2020**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church      Hermiston, Oregon*

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP** "O Come All Ye Faithful" interspersed with words from the prophet Isaiah

**P:** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

**C: glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

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!**

**P:** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

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, let us adore Him,**  
**O come, let us adore Him,**  
**O come, let us adore Him,**  
**Christ the Lord!**

**P:** Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**P:** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given,  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end.

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, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

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## **THE CONFESSION OF SINS** including Philippians 2:7-8 NIV

**P:** We confess, Almighty God, that like lost sheep we have erred and strayed from Your ways.

**C:** **We have followed the desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended You by disobeying Your laws.**

**We have fallen short of Your expectations and demands.**

**P:** We have not done that which we ought to have done; and we have done that which we ought not to have done.

**C:** **In the midst of this assembly I confess to You that I am a sinner.**

**P:** On Christmas morning it is wholly appropriate that we acknowledge that it was because of our sin that Jesus "emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

**C: even death on a cross!"**

*We pause to reflect on our sin AND on the Lord's mercy*

**P:** O Lord, have mercy;

**C:** **O Christ, have mercy;**

**O Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Lord, spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**C:** And grant, for His sake, that we may live sober,  
upright,  
and godly lives,  
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
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!

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### **ABSOLUTION**

**P:** I have good news for you!

Jesus, the Son of Mary and the Son of God has heard your confession. I tell you the truth, your wrongs have been erased forever from your record – you are forgiven and free!

**C:** Thanks be to God! Amen!

### **THE PSALMODY PSALM 98**

**P:** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**C:** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Hymn** “Joy to the World” vv. 1-2

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.

**P:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**C:** With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

**P:** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.

**C:** He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**Hymn** “Joy to the World” vv. 3-4

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.

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## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup> The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you waste places 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.

### Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making 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. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

### John 1:1-14

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## SERMON HYMN #370 “What Child is This?”

### SERMON

### OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P:** The Christmas season is, sadly, a time we often neglect to pray.

**C: We become too busy, too distracted by the glitter,  
and too focused on ourselves to lift up our hearts to the Lord.**

**P:** On this holy day it is good and proper for us to include in our celebration of Christ’s birth petitions for our families, our neighbors, and our world.

**Men: We need to pray for those who are homeless, hungry, or living in poverty.**

**P:** Father, look with mercy upon those who have little to nothing in their lives. Provide the homeless with safety and shelter. Open Your gracious hand to feed those who hunger. Grant the poor their daily needs. Make Your people a compassionate extension of Your ministry and care for the world – seeing the needs of those around us and responding with mercy;

**C: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.**

**Women: We need to pray for those who are mourning, alone, or brokenhearted.**

**P:** Jesus, look with mercy upon those whose hearts and souls are hurting. Comfort, with the hope of the resurrection, those who mourn the death of friends and family. Remind all who find themselves alone that You are ever-present with Your love and care. Bind up the hearts of those wounded and shattered by this world. Put the words of Your forgiveness, life, and salvation on the lips of Your people – that we, in turn, may bring healing and restoration into the lives of the hurting;

**C: through Your name, amen.**

**Men: We need to pray for those who are living in the chains of addiction.**

**P:** Spirit, look with mercy upon those who bound by the demons of addiction. By Your gracious power, free them from that which is destroying them. Pull them out of their shame and freely forgive them their sins. Restore their health, their minds, and their relationships. Help us to be a people ready to step in to help, to reconcile, and to restore;

**C: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.**

**Women: We need to pray for those who serve in positions of authority in our country and all nations.**

**P:** Father, guide all those whom You have placed in positions of authority to be Your worthy servants for the sake of their people. Give us times of peace and stability. Grant us leaders who will strive to be like You and to heed Your holy will. Govern our present days, as You have the past, to bring Your plan of salvation to the world. Help Your people to be good citizens and neighbors wherever they may dwell;

**C: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.**

**Men: We need to pray for those who struggle with mental illness and depression.**

**P:** Jesus, You were born into this world of struggle and brokenness. Bring healing to the minds and souls of those battling mental illness. Give them strength for the facing of this day and every day, confident that You have not and never shall abandon them. Restore and sustain joy in the hearts of those dealing with depression. Let Your redeemed people share the message that our salvation is secure because of You and Your actions and is not based on how we feel;

**C: through Your name, amen.**

**Women: We need to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in the faith who are imprisoned, suffering, or persecuted.**

**P:** Spirit, look with mercy upon those Christians who are suffering because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Give them both the strength to stand up under the pressure and the heart to love their enemies. Move the hearts of those persecuting the Church that, like Paul long ago, they might come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. Open the eyes of Your people who dwell in physical safety to be aware of our persecuted brothers and sisters in the faith and defend them via prayer and advocacy;

**C: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.**

**Men: We need to pray for those who are living in the darkness of unbelief.**

**P:** Jesus, You were born to be the Light of the world. Shine upon all those living in darkness and unbelief. We especially pray for those members of own families who have not yet believed in You. Replace their hearts of stone with hearts of flesh and let Your word dwell within them richly. Help us to be both bold and gentle as we share the Good News of salvation with whomever You place in our path;

**C: through Your name, amen.**

**Women: We need to pray for all of our families.**

**P:** Spirit, look with mercy upon all of our families and marriages. Bless our homes to be safe havens and places filled with mutual love and joy. Move all husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church, and all wives to respect their husbands as we honor Jesus. Help us to teach our children the true fear, knowledge, and love of the Lord. May our families be built on the Rock, which is Christ the Lord;

**C: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.**

**P:** Let us close our petitions this Christmas Day with a prayer so simple that small children easily learn it, and yet a prayer also so rich that we should daily attend to it and learn it anew. Today we sing the prayer given to us by Jesus Christ:

**LORD'S PRAYER** sung to: "Away in a Manger"

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, all praise to Your name!  
Your King-dom a-mong us, Your will done the same  
By mor-tals and an-gels. Come, Lord, reign a-lone:  
Oh, hear us and bless us From heav-en's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for pro-vide us each day;  
As we for-give o-thers, our sins take a-way;  
In times of tempt-a-tion, to lead us be near;  
From e-vil de-liv-er Your child-ren most dear.

For Yours is the King-dom; o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the pow-er; all things You main-tain.  
To You be the glo-ry, re-sound-ing a-gain  
From all of cre-a-tion, For-ev-er! A-men!

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## THE CHRISTMAS SANCTUS *sung to "What Child is This"*

The an-gels round the throne do sing  
Their prai-ses loud to God our King,  
"Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly is God;  
Let all cre-a-tion praise Him."  
Death reigned un-til His birth,  
The Sav-ior deigns to come to earth.  
Bless, bless His ho-ly name, the Babe, the Son of Mar-y.

The an-gels in the skies do sing,  
"All glo-ry be to God the King;  
And peace on earth, good-will to men,  
To you has come a Sav-ior!"  
Sing, sing "Ho-san-nas" loud,  
To Him to Whom the an-gels bowed.  
Bless, bless the Ho-ly One, the Babe, the Son of Mar-y

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### THE DISMISSAL

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

**C: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION 2 Corinthians 13:14

**P:** May the grace of the † Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen**

### HYMN #368 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

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