



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Know Jesus – Grow in the Bible – Excel in Loving God and Others!

Sunday, December 16 at 8:00 & 10:45

Third Sunday in Advent – 2018



Today's service is **Divine Service, Setting One** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166).

WELCOME:

- ✦ **Bell:** Please take a service folder and be seated. For the folder on your smartphone: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com/ServiceFolder
- ✦ **Phone:** Please silence at this time.
- ✦ **Welcome:** Visitors – See WHITE pew card.
- ✦ **Lord's Supper:** All – See WHITE pew card.
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** See YELLOW pew card.

PRELUDE: Christmas Canon Johann Pachelbel
We listen and prepare in silence!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

↑ **GOD'S WORK of SORROW and ASSURANCE:**

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who ♠are troubled because of their sins, ♠humbly confess their sins, ♠fear God's wrath, and ♠hunger and thirst for

righteousness. May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish those things in us.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- L: Let us confess our sins to God, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- A: O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess unto You all my sins and iniquities, and I pray for Your boundless mercy on the basis of the finished work of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**
- L: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C: Yes.**
- L: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen** (*face the entrance and focus on Jesus*).

SERVICE OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN:

Jesus, Name Above All Names

See the words below (AGPS 145)

1. Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us
blessed Redeemer, living Word.
2. Jesus, loving shepherd
vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the World.
3. Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

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KYRIE:

- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: Amen.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

- L: The LORD be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- L: *Let us pray.* Lord Jesus Christ,
- A: we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;**
- L: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.** ↓ *Children! Please come forward!*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Are You the One?



OLD TESTAMENT: Zephaniah 3:14-20 ESV

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1466 / Own Bible

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 85 ESV

See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

L: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

C: you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

L: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

C: you covered all their sin.

L: You withdrew all your wrath;

C: you turned from your hot anger.

L: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

C: and put away your indignation toward us!

L: Will you be angry with us forever?

C: Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

L: Will you not revive us again,

C: that your people may rejoice in you?

L: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C: and grant us your salvation.

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C: for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

L: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

C: that glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

C: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

L: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

C: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

L: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C: and our land will yield its increase.

L: Righteousness will go before him

C: and make his footsteps a way.

A: 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.

EPISTLE: Philippians 4:4-7 ESV

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1830 / Own Bible

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 7:18-28 ESV

See Below / Pew Bible Page 1603 / Own Bible

This reading will be read during the sermon!

SERMON HYMN:

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

See the words below / TLH 73, Third Tune / LSB 341

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

SERMON: Is Jesus Definitely the Promised One?

Luke 7:18-28 ESV

1. **What Was Reported to John?**
¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him.
2. **What Was the Task of John's Disciples?** And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one

who is to come [literally, the coming one], or shall we look for another?"

3. **John Wants to Know: Is Jesus the Messiah?** ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come [the coming one], or shall we look for another?'"
4. **How Did Jesus Convince John's Disciples?** ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.
5. **How Should John's Disciples Answer John?** ²² And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor [Matt. 5:3] have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended [does not stumble] by me [in connection with me]."
6. **What Did Jesus Say About John?** ²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John:

- a. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"
- b. ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.
- c. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'
- d. ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

SERMON HYMN:

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

See the words below / TLH 73, Third Tune / LSB 341

- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

APOSTLES' CREED

Go to the back of either hymnal.

I believe!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *Let Us Pray*

After Each Petition: L: LORD, in Your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer.

Conclusion:

- L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen. ↓

OFFERING: *As we have received, so we give!*

OFFERTORY: Angels We Have Heard On High
Setting by L. Schackley

BEFORE COMMUNING PRAYER: Front of LSB

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

- L: The LORD be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the LORD.**
- L: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.
- C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- L: It is truly good, right and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy LORD, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our

Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

See the words below / LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: *Let Us Pray*

L: Blessed are You, LORD of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created, and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.

C: With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

L: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O LORD, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit.

C: Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

L: Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

C: Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us.

L: To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: Our Father who art in heaven...

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *On Good Friday*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: *Lamb of God*

See the words below / LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, You take a – way the sin of the world; grant - - - us peace. ↓

DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Special Music by Gayle

Of The Father's Love Begotten Callahan

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: *Let Us Pray*

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary [*beneficial*] gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN:
O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee
See the words below / TLH 309

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!

My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art! Amen.

BENEDICTION: *Receive and Be Blessed*

L: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD
make his face shine upon you and be
gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you
with *favor* and give you peace.

C: Amen. ↓

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:
Angels We have Heard On High

SPECIAL BLESSINGS FOR YOU:

- ♦ **Receive Prayer:** Meet up front with: Millie (8:00); Brian/Jerry (10:45).
- ♦ **Sermon Copies:** Available in the Narthex.
- ♦ **Be Refreshed** (9:10-9:30): Join us down the hall for coffee, juice, bakery, and more!
- ♦ **Grow Up in God's Word** (9:30-10:30): Attend Bible Class / Sunday School!
- ♦ **Giving Report:**
 - Actual: *Received Last Week:* \$3,352
 - Budget: *January → Last Week* (planned vs. actual): \$ - 23,019
 - Actual: *Jan. → Oct.* (received: \$191,033; spent: \$203,875): \$ - 12,842
- ♦ **Participation Guide:** See today's insert!

Services > Sermons > Meals

- ➔ **12/19 – Third Wednesday in Advent:** Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6
The Bethlehem Series: Part 3 – Ruth, Chapters 3-4
- ➔ **12/23 – Fourth Sunday in Advent: Divine Service at 10** (No Classes)
Why Was Mary Blessed Among Women? (Luke 1:39-45)
- ➔ **12/24 – The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve: Divine Service at 6**
The Bethlehem Series: Part 4 – God's Grand Plan for Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem
- ➔ **12/25 – The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day: Divine Service at 10**
The Bethlehem Series: Part 5 – Jesus Was Born for You!

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 12/16

Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Kathy G, Stacey J
Financial Team: Natalia F, Inez G

8:00 Service

Ushers: Jim C, Ray K, Paul M
Pastor Team: Dave K
Prayers: Millie S

9:30 Refreshments: Miriam E and Doris C

10:45 Service

Ushers: John H, Klaus K
Pastor Team: Harold W
Prayers: Jerry H / Brian Z

THANKS FOR SERVING ON 12/23
ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

Organist: Gayle Powers
Altar Guild: Eileen K, Nancy B
Financial Team: Natalia F, Inez G
Ushers: Jim C, Ray K, Paul M, John H, Klaus K
Pastor Team: Dave K, Harold W
Prayers: Jerry H / Brian Z

Secretary Note to Congregation

- Please remember to ***completely*** fill out the green attendance slip in your service folder each week; especially include your name! 😊 *Thanks!*
- If you order altar flowers, *please return the vase(s)*. We take return them to the flower shop and they discount our flowers. *Thanks!*



Don't miss *The Bethlehem Series* on Wednesdays, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day!

Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com	Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible" (listen to the sermons)
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	Address:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office:	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	Kathy Green:	Secretary@blc7500.com ; 440-845-2230
Childcare Center:	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	Tricia Wise:	ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com ; 440-884-0430
Pastor Green:	RevRLGreen@aol.com ; 440-292-5915	Church Body:	lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org