



*Welcome to
Worship at Bethel*

*Sunday, December 16, 2018
Third Sunday in Advent*

Pastor: Rev. Mark Kindem

Bethel Lutheran Church, NALC
5232 Irvine Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
www.bethelbemidji.org
218-444-4746

*"A Family in Christ;
Moved by His Spirit;
Sharing His Love."*

*: Please stand if you are able.
LBW: Lutheran Book of Worship (green)
WOV: With One Voice (blue)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE

NARRATION

From the very early days in the community of faith, shepherds were special - so special in fact that in his dying words Jacob blessed Joseph saying, "The God before whom my ancestors Abraham and Isaac walked has been my shepherd all my life to this day." If God shepherded his people, is it any wonder that he chose shepherds as the first visitors to the manger? Whom would he choose to be the god-parents of his son than those who followed in his footsteps?

RESPONSIVE READING

Who shall go out before them and come in before them,
who shall lead them out and bring them in,
so that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep
without a shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures:

He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

I will give you shepherds after my own heart,

who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,

keeping watch over their flock by night.

The shepherds said to one another,

**"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has taken place."**

So they went with haste, leaving the ninety-nine on the mountains

to go in search of the one, that was astray:

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The God of peace brought again from the dead

our Lord Jesus, Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

"Light One Candle"

"What Child Is This?"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

BETHEL CHOIR

"Noel Festival"

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Pew Bible page 862

PSALM

Isaiah 12:2-6

Pew Bible page 628

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water **from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Pew Bible page 1071

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him,
"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor';
for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees;
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them,
"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him,
"Teacher, what should we do?"

He said to them,
"Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them,
"Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,
"I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

READING

The Good news that John Proclaimed came to fulfillment in Jesus.

But the first people to hear the promise fulfilled were an unlikely Group of people. In the time of Jesus, shepherds were often portrayed in an unflattering light. They were not allowed to testify in court, as their word was not to be believed. And since they often traveled with their flocks, people grew suspicious of their movements and intentions. And yet the angel of the Lord spoke to them! Shepherds, of all people; telling them, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

BETHEL CHOIR

"Arise Good Shepherds"

READING

The shepherds began to look for the child whose birth had been announced by the angels. Down from the hills they came, looking here and there, seeking the place in which Jesus had been born. Today, we are reminded that just as the shepherds went looking for Jesus in the manger, so too we are seekers of Jesus the Child of promise this day, and every day.

BETHEL CHOIR

"Child of Promise"

*NICENE CREED

LBW p. 84

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord in your mercy....**hear our prayer**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

OFFERING

LBW # 67

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance, we bring before You the precious fruits of Your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of Your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION

LBW p. 89

**Word’s of Institution, *Lord’s Prayer, Distribution*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Away in a Manger”

LBW # 67

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LBW # 41

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we give You thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on Your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare Your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of Your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

READING

It was on that one night, so long ago, when the Word of God resounded throughout the world. As we remember and celebrate the gift of His Son, Jesus, we have God's blessings in our hearts and are assured of His Everlasting love. God's countenance is always upon us through His Son Jesus.

BETHEL CHOIR

"Christmas Benediction"

***SENDING HYMN**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LBW # 70

