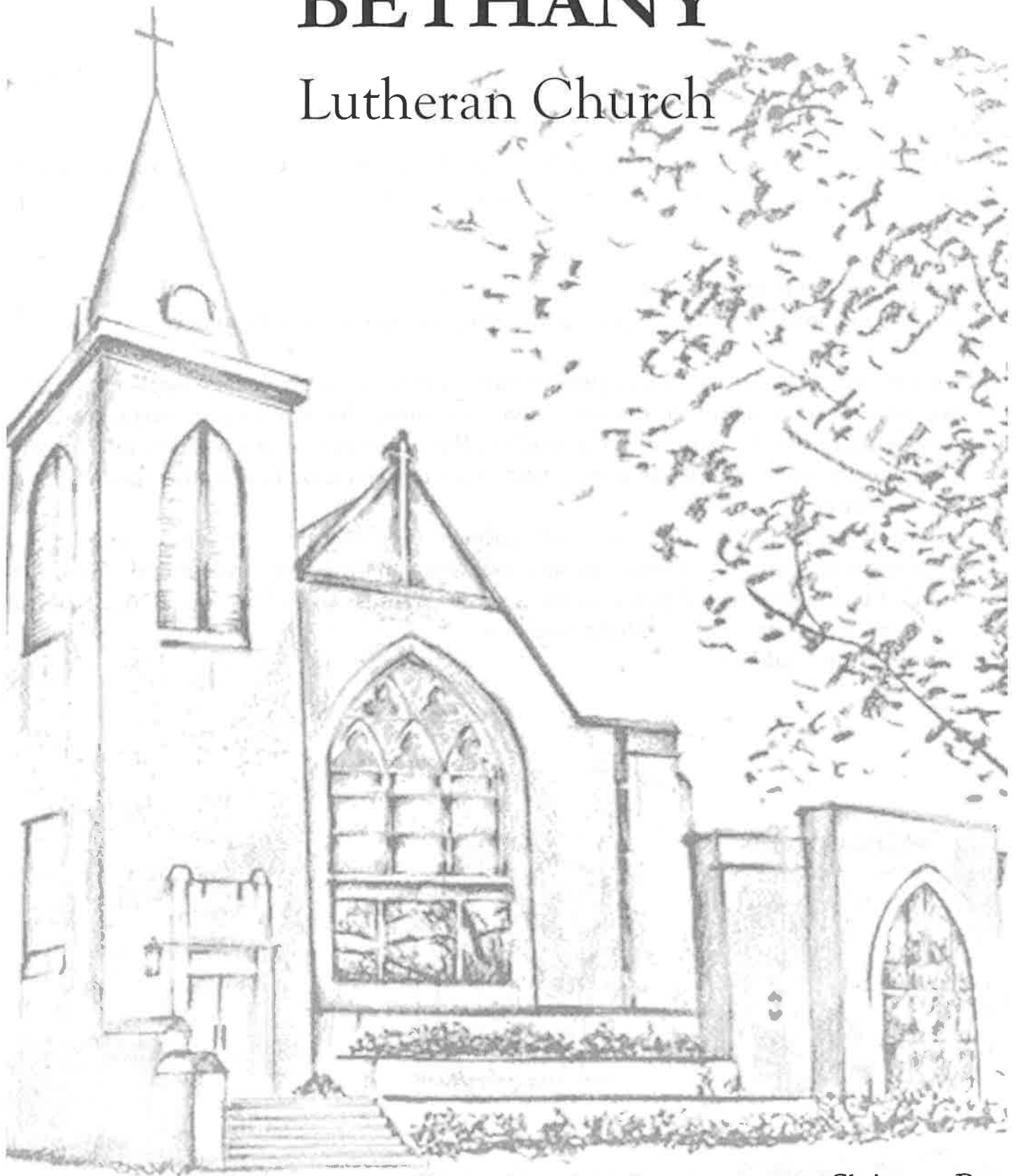


BETHANY

Lutheran Church



Christmas Day
The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2022

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Pastorale Symphony

G.F. Handel

INVOCATION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.
God of peace,

C **we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen**

P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C Amen, Hallelujah!





1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING

P The love of the Father, who gave his only Son to us, the grace of the Christ + child born for us; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who filled the night sky with wonder, song, and a vision of angels; be with you all.

C And also with you.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

- P God has raised up for us a mighty Savior who came among as an infant child.
- C **Grant us the humble courage of Joseph and the unwavering trust of Mary that, in all our faithful living, we may not grow weary.:**
- P Grant us the jubilation of the angel choir; bringing Christ's message of peace and goodwill to all the world.
- C **Grant us the blessed vision of the shepherds that, like them, we may give bold witness to the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- P Light the road before us and guide us by that heavenly star,
- C **so that we may come into the Lord's presence to praise, worship, and adore our newborn king.**
- P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
- C **who comes again to set us free.**
- P Behold I bring you good news of great joy,
- C **for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.**
- P Let the heavens and earth proclaim his birth!
- C **Oh, come let us worship him!**

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE. Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen

READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The 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.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All My Heart Again Rejoices

ELW #273



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON:

Pastor Jeffrey Mikyska
John 1:1–14





1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

NICENE CREED

A Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death. You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, you brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope. Arouse us to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn. Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Finally, bring us and all your people to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory, and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

C **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.**

+ **SENDING** +

BENEDICTION

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,

the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,

the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forevermore.

C Amen.

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Angels We Have Heard on High

Arr. Alan F. Spear

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister
Alan Spear, Organist
Fred Holch, Ryan Pieratt, A/V
Festival Choir

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor
Mark Waldron, Director of Music
Alan Spear, Organist
Steven Ritter, Visitation Pastor
Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant
Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary
Emma Hess, Youth Director

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Alan Spear, Vice President
Doug Boehm, Secretary
Steve Mickelson, Treasurer
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Brad Hirt

Pastor Jeff Mikyska
Jackie Page
Kathy Richmond
Mia Rusev
Ed Schalk
Marsha Schuster

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to council@bethanybatavia.org.

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