



15 WEST 14TH STREET, SPENCER, IA 51301

www.bethluthspencer.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 27, 2020 – 9:00 AM

Service of the Word - Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Led by leaders at the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW p. 210

Hymn: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

ELW #295

Kyrie eleison: **Lord have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord have mercy.**

Hymn of Praise

Psalms 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

Pastor Mike Kroona

Hymn: *"Love Has Come"*

ELW #292

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn: *"What Child is This?"*

ELW #296

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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♪ Worship Notes ♪

Today's worship service was prepared and shared by leaders at the Western Iowa Synod. A special thank you to the Synod team!

The liturgical color for Christmas and the Christmas season is white. White symbolizes purity, holiness, respect and reverence. White is also used for the season of Easter.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Health Concerns:

Larry Anderson, Jed Cameron, Shari Emmert, Eileen Harkema, Bill Hemme, Mary Rose Hemme, Gerald Koester, Linda Kunzmann, Sandy Manwarren, Kim McCune, Don Moore, Marsha Nelson, Steve Salts, Geraldine Senne, Lloyd Senne, Lyle Youngdahl; Ida Syvertson (*John Syvertson's mother*); Joel Meyer (*Marilyn Meyer's son*) Ken (Doc) Manwarren (*Greg Manwarren's brother*) Patricia Bentsen (*Missionary to Madagascar*)

Those who mourn:

Family of Alex Jacobsen (*Dave Jacobsen's son*)
Family of Miles Rohan (*Kevin Rohan's father*)
Family of Mitch Baker (*Mary Marske's brother-in-law*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Many thanks to you – the members and friends of Bethany who have continued to be faithful in giving... supporting the general operations of the church and missions of the church, and in giving of your time and talents! All gifts received by December 31 will be recorded on your 2020 giving statements unless specified otherwise. For tax purposes gifts must be received in the church office by December 31 or postmarked by that date.

EVANGELISM CALENDARS The year 2021 is just around the corner! Do you have a calendar? If not, consider a Bethany photo collage calendar with pictures from activities at Bethany and favorite Bible verses submitted by members. Cost is \$15. Find them at the Welcome Center!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2021, after worship. Stay tuned for more details. All members should attend this meeting!