



God's Advent Family

The angel said to Joseph, "You shall call his name Jesus: for he will save his people from their sins . . ."

BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES.....10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES.....9:00 A.M.

CHURCH: 1515 SOUTH LOOP 256, PALESTINE, TX 75801
PHONE: (903) 729-6362 FAX: (903) 723-7725
WEBSITE: www.belctx.org EMAIL: info@belctx.org
PASTOR: The Reverend David L. Adler

"TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS"

MISSION STATEMENT: Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life.

AS WE GATHER: The Christian Church Calendar begins a new year in the season called Advent. "Advent" means "coming" and is the name of a 4 week season of the Church Year which focuses on the coming of Jesus.

The Church Year begins in Advent by telling the story of our Lord's earthly ministry. As we prepare to celebrate His first coming at Christmas in the Means of Grace, we also look to the final resurrection when He will come again on the Last Day.

OUR THANKS to the Evangelism Committee for preparing tonight's supper.

OUR ADVENT SERVICES are preceded by a fellowship meal. Your assistance in helping to provide food for next week's meal is appreciated!

NEXT WEDNESDAY: "God's Advent Family" an Interview with Mary, the mother of our Lord.

BETHLEHEM'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE is Sunday, December 17th, during the Divine Service. Plan to join us as our children and youth share the Christmas message!

BETHLEHEM'S HOLIDAY DINNER is Sunday, December 17th, following the Divine Service. Plan to join us for this time of great food and fellowship!

+ + +

Organist: Mary Bowden Duty Elder: Gil Daughtrey
Acolyte: Christopher Harris Altar Guild: Lori Fortner & Dot James
Voices: Joseph-James Taylor; Angel-Sara Kimbrough; Mother-Sandy Smith; Woman-Lea Rossier; Mary-Megan Taylor

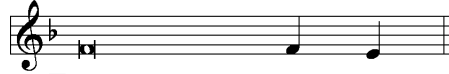
The Psalm is from Lutheran Service Book Altar Book, © 2006 CPH. All Scripture quotations, including those from Lutheran Service Book, are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Liturgy License #12570. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012570.

God's Advent Family services were prepared by Arden W. Mead and Peter J. Mead © 1989 Creative Communications for the Parish, 10300 Watson Rd. St. Louis. MO 63127. Cover art: The Adoration of the Magi, by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Samuel H. Kress Collection.

✠ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

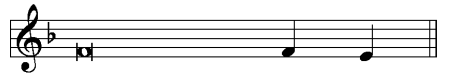
i Versicles (for Advent)

P (♪) The Spirit and the Church cry out



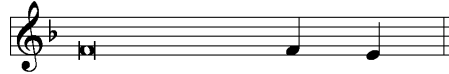
C Come, Lord Je - sus.

P (♪) All those who await His appearance pray



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

P (♪) The whole creation pleads



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron ~ *Hymn of Light* Page 244

Thanksgiving for the Light Page 245

✠ PSALMODY ✠

i Psalm 141 Page 245

i Psalm of the Day Psalm 103:1-5, 12-13, 17-19

P Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

P Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C and forget not all his benefits,

P who forgives all your iniquity,

C who heals all your diseases,

P who redeems your life from the pit,

C who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P who satisfies you with good

C so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

P as far as the east is from the west,

C so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

P As a father shows compassion to his children,

C so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

P The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

C and his righteousness to children's children,

P to those who keep his covenant

C and remember to do his commandments.

P The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

C and his kingdom rules over all.

All 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Prophecy & Bethlehem Candles

Office Hymn..... "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #341

✠ READINGS ✠

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 23:3-6 Pew Bible page 650

after the readings:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle..... 2 Peter 1:2-8 Pew Bible page 1018

i Holy ✠ Gospel St. Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible page 807

after the reading:

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

(Hebrews 1:1-2a)

i Hymn "As God's Advent Family" [Tune: #869]

¹ As God's Advent family,

Join we now the chorus

Of the saints who faithfully

Waited long before us,

Children of the Lord most high,

Strengthening each other,

Seeking Christ, Who now draws nigh

As our Lord and Brother.

² Lo, the angel of the Lord

Tells of God's great favor,

How God's Son, by all adored,

Comes to be our Savior!

As the carpenter once heard

And was blessed by hearing,

May we hearken to the Word

Of the Lord's appearing.

Text: Arden W. Mead, Peter J. Mead • Tune: FANG DEIN WERK

God's Advent Family Interview Joseph, faithful carpenter

✠ CANTICLE ✠

i Magnificat ~ *Song of Mary* Page 248

i Offering and Attendance Registration

✠ PRAYER ✠

i Litany Page 249

Collect for Peace and Lord's Prayer..... Page 251

Benedicamus and Benediction Page 252

Closing Doxology "As God's Advent Family" [Tune #869]

As God's Advent family, join we now the chorus

Of the saints who faithfully waited long before us,

To God - Father, Spirit, Son - glory e'er be given,

May God's will on earth be done as it is in heaven!

Text: Arden W. Mead, Peter J. Mead • Tune: FANG DEIN WERK

Silent Prayer, Announcements and Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!