

*A Midweek Devotional*

# ADVENT

December 11, 2024



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*Associate Pastor*

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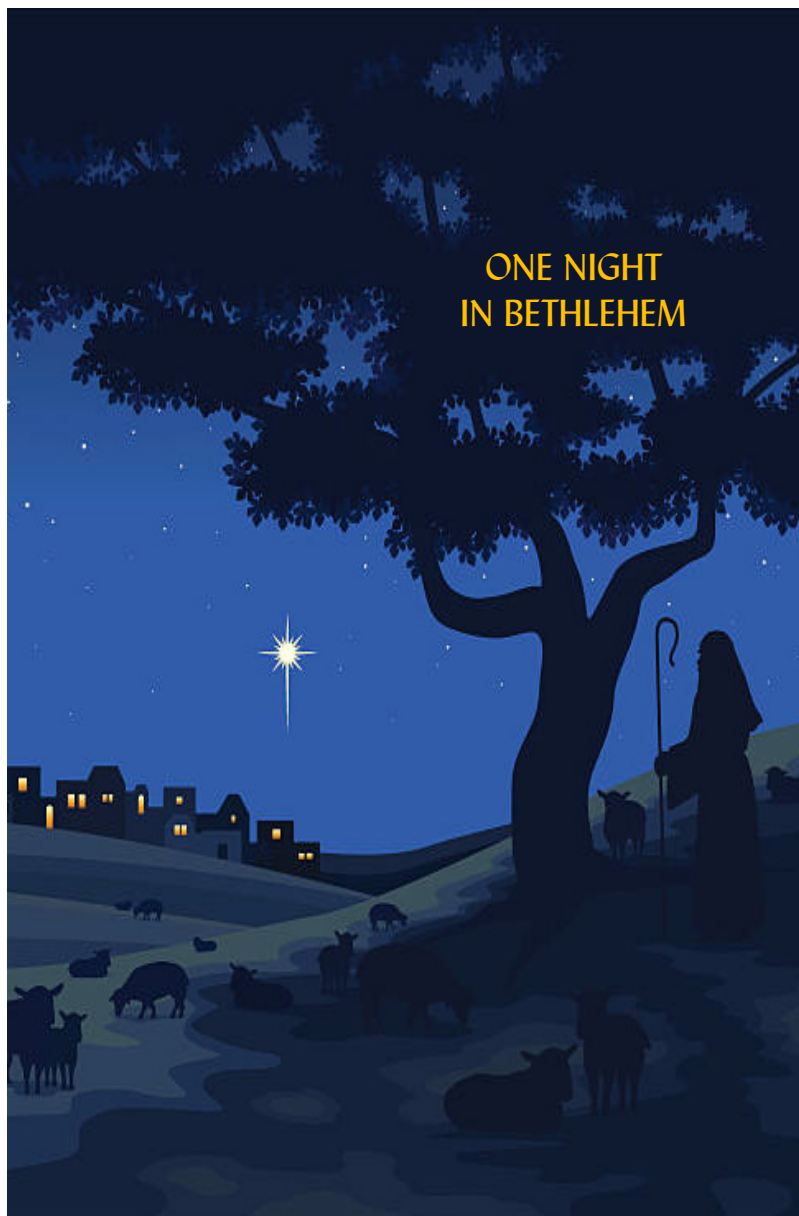
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ONE NIGHT  
IN BETHLEHEM



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**Historic Trinity**  
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# One Night in Bethlehem

*An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional*

## Service Two: In the Fields

December 11, 2024

**PRELUDE** @12pm

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Carl F. Schalk*

**CAROLING** @6:30pm

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380 v. 1-2



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, you are one of the little clans of Judah.

**People:** But from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule Israel. His kingdom is eternal.

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
**People: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**  
Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
**People: and the government will be on his shoulders.**  
Pastor: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Stir up, stir up, O Lord, the hearts that beat within our chests. Let them pound in steady rhythm a song that prepares the world to meet and greet your only Son. Make his coming strong—strong enough to defeat our conflicts. Make his coming light bright enough to illuminate our path through this darkened world. For he is your only Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**People:** ♪ Amen.

♪ **Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass.

**People: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever.**

Pastor: Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.

**People: The Lord comes in judgment! As He comes, I stand guilty before Him.**

Pastor: Guilty before our God, without excuse, we confess our sinfulness to Him.

**People: We confess before You, O Lord, that we are sinful. We have failed to treasure Your Word and as a result we have lived for ourselves instead of living our lives for You. You intend Your Word to shine forth light, yet, at times, we choose to live in darkness. We acknowledge Your just judgment and confess we deserve to be cast away from Your presence for all eternity. We trust not in ourselves but in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant us**

**forgiveness for the sake of Him who sacrificed His very life that we may have eternal life.**

Pastor: The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should repent. Upon this, your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God unto you and 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.

People: ♪ Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT**

Ezekiel 34:11-16

*(Of shepherds and sheep...)*

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **A PSALM AND A SONG**

Psalm 23 and LSB 367 v. 2, 4

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

People: ♪ **Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night.**

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

People: ♪ **God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant light.**

Pastor: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

People: ♪ **Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ the newborn King.**

Pastor: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**People:** ♪ **Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,**

Pastor: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**People:** ♪ **Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.**

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**People:** ♪ **Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ the newborn King.**

### **IN THE FIELDS LITANY**

Pastor: I thank you that you are my Savior and my Lord. Thank you for coming. And for placing yourself at our mercy.

**People:** **Take me to the stable to learn from you. To the manger. To the cloths. To a quiet place in the straw.**

Pastor: There I pray you would give me the right eyes and ears that I may see you wherever you might come, hear you however you might speak.

**People:** **Take me to the fields to learn from the shepherds.**

Pastor: Give me the lowly heart of those shepherds, who, because of their humility, were entrusted with such great revelation.

**People:** **Give me their listening heart, which with fear and trembling hung on to every word that fell from heaven.**

Pastor: Give me their searching heart, which left their work to scour the barns of Bethlehem to find you.

**People:** **It is no wonder the announcement of your birth came to them- the lowly, the listening, the searching.**

Pastor: And it is no wonder they were chosen to be the first evangelists.

**People:** **Please grant me the grace, fairest Lord Jesus, that someday I might experience a spilling of heaven's glory on the fields over which I watch.**

Pastor: Give me an echo of some angelic song amid the monotones of my day-to-day work.

**People:** **And grant me a heart to behold heavenly things in the humblest of places.**

**ANTHEM** @12pm

“If We Knew When”  
“Savior of the Nations Come”

*Ruth Elaine Schram*  
*St. Ambrose*  
*St. Peter Lutheran School, Macomb 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir*

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:8-14

*(In the fields...)*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

LSB 366 v. 1-2, 4



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-ri-ous song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

**HOMILY** @12pm

“Immanuel”

Isaiah 7:14; 61:1-3

*Rev. Dante Pronsati, Associate Pastor  
St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, Macomb*

@6:30pm

“Determined Love”

Ezekiel 34:11-16

*Rev. Alan Eisinger, Cathedral Pastor  
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

**OFFERTORY**

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

♪ **From God our Heavenly Father A blessed Angel came  
And unto certain Shepherds Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy**

**GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

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**VOLUNTARY** @12pm

“Veni Emmanuel”

*Sharon Elery Rogers*

@6:30pm

“The Shepherds (French Carol)”

*Wilbur Held*

**PRAYERS**

- Pastor: Dear Father, take this day’s life into Your own keeping. Control all our thoughts and feelings.
- People: Direct all our energies. Instruct our minds. Sustain our wills.**
- Pastor: Take our hands and make them skillful to serve You.
- People: Take our feet and make them swift to do Your bidding.**
- Pastor: Take our eyes and keep them fixed on Your everlasting beauty.
- People: Take our mouths and make it eloquent in testimony to Your love.**
- Pastor: Make this day a day of obedience, a day of spiritual joy and peace.
- People: May our days be spent in living for your glory.**
- Pastor: Dear Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, help me to grasp the truth that You will return one day, just as You promised.
- People: And help me to understand that if that day doesn’t dawn in my lifetime, then in death I will return to You.**
- Pastor: Help me to grasp the truth that Your arrival or my departure is always imminent. That it will come suddenly, like a thief in the night.
- People: With my grasping this, Lord, help me live my life in watchfulness.**
- Pastor: Keep me from being fearful of whatever night might darken the world, and give me a discriminating ear that I may know the difference between Your footsteps and the noise of this world,
- People: between Your knock and the clamor of my anxious thoughts.**

Pastor: But when You do knock, Lord, may I be ready to meet You at the door.  
Dressed for work. Lamp in hand.

People: Ready to serve. Eager to worship.

### LORD'S PRAYER


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.

### BENEDICTION

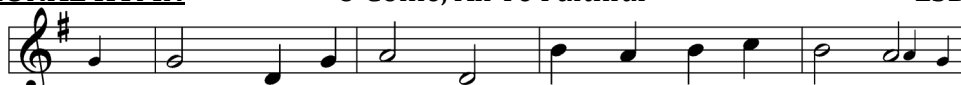
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you. The ✱ Lord lift his countenance upon you and  
give you peace.

People:   
A-men, a-men, a - men.

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379 v. 3



3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Glo - ry to God In the high - est:

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

POSTLUDE @12pm  
@6:30pm

“He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising”  
“Noel”

Paul Manz  
Jean-François Dandrieu