

A Midweek Devotional

ADVENT

December 18, 2024



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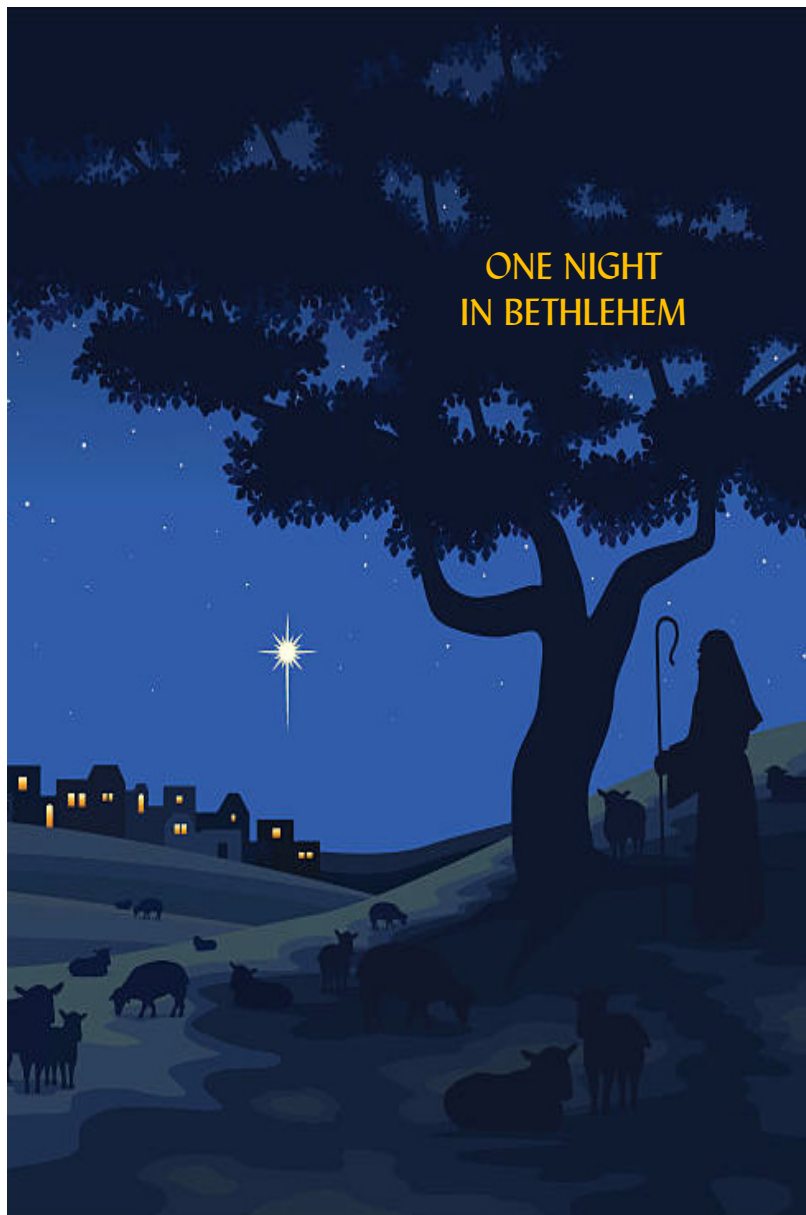
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ONE NIGHT
IN BETHLEHEM



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Historic Trinity

Lutheran Church

One Night in Bethlehem

An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional

Service Three: At the Manger

December 18, 2024

PRELUDE @12pm

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

arr. John A. Behnke

CAROLING @6:30pm

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374 v. 1-2



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.

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: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

People: **from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**

Pastor: Righteousness will be his belt
People: and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
Pastor: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the
goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
People: and a little child will lead them.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up, stir up, O Lord, your people. Enliven us with the spirit of John, who
cried into the wilderness of your world and gave witness to the coming of
your Son. Open our minds to the simple wisdom of your love—then we
will live our days with purpose. Open our ears to your word of judgment
and of grace—then we will witness to the coming of your Son. “Prepare!”
our mouths and lives shall cry. “The Son of God is coming near!” For he
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.
People: ♪ Amen.

♪ **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Who is this?
People: “Even wind and sea obey Him!” *Mark 4:41*
Pastor: Who is this?
**People: “Who then is this, that He commands even winds and water, and they
obey Him?” *Luke 8:25b***
Pastor: Who is this?
People: “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” *Luke 5:21*
Pastor: It is God alone! It is He who can forgive sins. As our Emmanuel comes, we
humble ourselves before Him, open our hearts, and confess our sins...
**People: Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that often we have praised You and
welcomed You with our lips, but have dishonored and disobeyed You
with our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You with
our entire lives, and we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. Especially we confess to You the sins of which we are
aware, and those that burden our hearts.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God;
People: **for the sake of Jesus Christ forgive us our sins. Bring forth new life in us today and every day, that we may honor and serve You in all things.**

Pastor: Out of His great love for us, God sent His only Son Jesus into our sinful world, to live in our midst, to die for our sins, and to rise from the dead to give us forgiveness and life. As your called and ordained pastor, at the command and promise of our 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

Isaiah 7:10-14

(The virgin will conceive and bear a son)

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A SONG AND A PSALM

“How Great Our Joy” and Psalm 95:1-7

People: ♪ **There shall be born so he did say,**

Pastor: Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

People: ♪ **In Bethlehem a child today.**

Pastor: He rules over the whole earth, from the deepest caves to the highest hills. He rules over the sea, which he made; the land also, which he himself formed.

People: ♪ **How great our joy! (Great our joy!) Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!
(Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!)**

Pastor: Come, let us bow down and kneel before the Lord.

People: ♪ **This gift of God, we’ll cherish well**

Pastor: For he is our God, our Creator.

People: ♪ **That ever joy our hearts shall fill.**

Pastor: We are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

People: ♪ **How great our joy! (Great our joy!) Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!
(Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high!)**

AT THE MANGER LITANY

Pastor: Thank you, Heavenly Father, for Mary and Joseph.

People: They loved you only the way a mother or father could.

Pastor: They knew you the way no other person on earth could ever know you.

People: They saw your first smile, heard your first word, help you take your first step.

Pastor: Thank you for all the time your mother Mary spent holding you, cuddling you, telling you stories.

People: Thank you for everything Joseph did to help you grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Pastor: Thank you for the maternal instincts that protected you during your early years.

People: Thank you for the paternal faith and the obedience in fleeing to Egypt to save you, and for their diligence in searching through Jerusalem to find you.

Pastor: I know if I love you the way they loved you, my heart will never be safe.

People: Someday you will unsettle my life.

Pastor: And someday a sword will pierce my soul too.

People: Prepare me for that day, Father. Help me realize that the greater my love for you, the sharper that sword will be... and the deeper it will go.

Pastor: Help me understand that risk. And help me to understand, as I try to fathom the mystery of your love for me, that it's the one risk in this world really worth taking.

ANTHEM @12pm

"This Is the Time"
"Hope Has Come"

*Christy Semsen
Arr. Daniel Semsen
Guardian Lutheran School, Dearborn*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:15-20

(At the manger...)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what

the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Child is This?”

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

HOMILY @12pm

“A Spring Welling up to Eternal Life”

Luke 2:20

*Rev. Alex Schrader, Pastor
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Armada, MI*

@6:30pm

“The Greatest Gift”

Luke 2:16

*Rev. James Rolf, Cathedral Pastor
 Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

OFFERTORY

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

♪ **Now to the Lord sing praises All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface
O tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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You can donate at historictrinity.org/give, or mail to 1345 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207.*



VOLUNTARY @12pm/ 6:30pm “What Child is This?”

Paul Manz

PRAYERS

Pastor: O holy Child of Bethlehem, we come as the mighty and the lowly,
threadbare shepherds just in from the fields,
**People: We gather together around a baby in a manger in a stable behind a
small town inn.**
Pastor: We gaze together upon a newborn infant fidgeting in sleep.
People: We hear the soothing hum of a mother,
Pastor: the stalwart silence of a father, the rustle of hay and the footfall of the
cattle and the donkey,
People: the occasional flurry of wings in the rafters,
Pastor: the shifting weight of all of us gathered, watching.
People: What are you dreaming as you squirm in sleep?
Pastor: What world of possibility inhabits your dreams?
People: Are you dreaming a future for us?
Pastor: Are you dreaming a banquet for the hungry?
People: Are you dreaming healing for our illnesses and relief for our pain?
Pastor: Are you dreaming calm for the anxious?
People: Are you dreaming restoration for the broken?
Pastor: What beautiful new world are you dreaming for us?
People: Do you see your dreams?
Pastor: Do you see deep into us and meet your own reflection as the morning star
rising, bright day breaking in our souls?
People: Peer into us with your infant eyes and let your birth dawn within us.
Pastor: Let healing dawn in our wounds. Let comfort dawn in our afflictions.
**People: Let forgiveness dawn in our bitterness. Let compassion dawn in our
indifference.**

Pastor: Let joy dawn in our sorrows. Let courage dawn in our fears.
People: Let hope dawn in our despair. Let dawn break as the song of the angels bursting forth to sing in our hearts.
 Pastor: In our gathering around you here may we welcome all wonders in one sight and dream with you, the wonders yet to be.
People: Amen.

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

LSB 379 v. 2



2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
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

“Von Himmel Hoch”
 “Magnificat”

Wilbur Held
 Jean-François Dandrieu