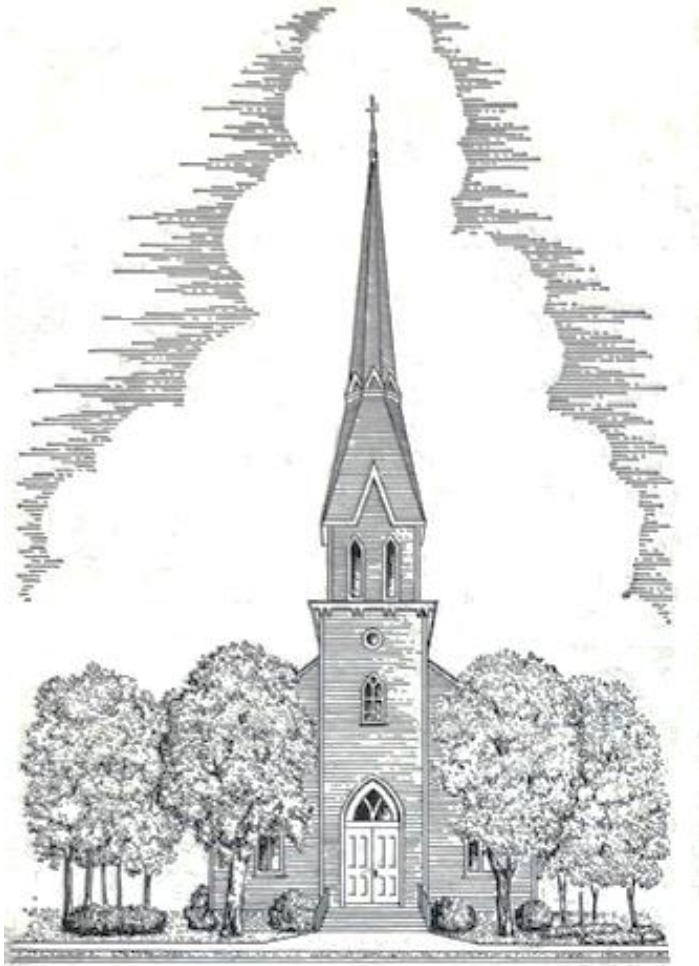


Gottesdienst (Divine Service) to Commemorate the
160th Anniversary
of the Founding of
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Altamont, IL



1861-2021
Zum Kripplein Christi

Let us go to Bethlehem. *Luke 2:15*

Laast uns nun gehen nach Bethlehem
und die Geschichte sehen,
die da geschehen ist,
die uns der Herr kundgetan hat.

(Luke 2:15)

*“Let us go over even unto Bethlehem,
and see this thing
which is come to pass,
which the Lord hath made known to us.”*

Rev. Marcus Manley

Guest Preacher: Rev. Benjamin T. Ball

Elder: Dennis Guffey

Organist & Choir Dir.: Dean Manuel

Acolyte: Garrett Flood; Book Bearer: Easton Caraway; Crucifer: Tyler Ruffner

Ushers: Jeff Alwardt, Ray Braasch, Steve Flood, Ben Wharton

Ringling of Bells

Prelude *Festive Trumpet Tune* - David German



✠ **DIVINE SERVICE III** ✠

LSB p. 184-202

Please stand and face the cross as it enters the sanctuary during the processional hymn.

Processional Hymn TLH #639 *One Hundred Sixty Years of Grace*

1. One Hundred Sixty Years of Grace,
 This church has been Thy dwelling place
 And we Thy congregation.
 Upon the precious Cornerstone
 Our faith is built, and Christ alone
 Is still our one Foundation.
 Today We pray:
 “Let us greet Thee, Lord, and meet Thee
 Here with singing,
 All our praises to Thee bringing.”

2. Here children have been born anew
 As manifold as morning dew,
 Their vows to Thee confessing.
 Here many found a table spread,
 They ate Christ’s body with the bread
 And drank the cup of blessing.
 Today We pray:
 “Let none falter At Thine altar.
 We adore Thee,
 Gladly worship here before Thee.”

3. Here when the marriage vows were made,
 Both bride and groom besought Thine aid,
 Thy love their own transcending.
 Here mourners, with their troubled hearts,
 Have found the peace Thy Word imparts,
 The joy that has no ending.
 Today We pray:
 “May the story of Thy glory
 Here resounding
 Be a song of grace abounding!”

✠ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** ✠

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✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

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Introit for the Anniversary

1 Chronicles 29; antiphon: Ps. 26.8 (respond with the words in bold)

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*

and the place where your | glory dwells.

Blessèd are you, O LORD, the God of | Israel*

our father, forever and | ever.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the | majesty,*

for all that is in the heavens and in the | earth is yours.

Yours is the kingdom, | O LORD,*

and you are exalted as head a- | bove all.

And now we thank you, | our God,*

and praise your | glorious name.

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*

and the place where your | glory dwells.

♪ **The Gloria Patri**

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♪ **Kyrie**

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♪ **Gloria in Excelsis**

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♪ **Salutation**

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Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in this place of worship and ask Your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: ♪ Amen**

Ministry of Music, Kindercor: "Seek Ye First"

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 8:22-30

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴who have kept with

your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. ²⁵Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ³⁰And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music, Choir: "The Church of God is One"

Please join with the choir and organ to sing the final verse:

The Chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;

She is His new cre-a-tion, by wa-ter and the Word.

From heav'n He came and sought her to be His ho-ly bride;

With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Second Reading: Revelations 21:1-5

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

C: ♪ *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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

C: ♪ *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

Please be seated

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Hymn of the Day - *The Anniversary Hymn of Praise and Thanksgiving*
Written to Glory of God in thanks and praise for
One hundred sixty years of His blessings to Bethlehem Church
-Dean Manuel, April 2021

1. Joyful, joyful we adore You God of Heaven and of Earth
We give thanks to you for blessings You have given to your Church.
For the Word and for the Spir-it that a-lone can bring to faith.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises be to our great God!
2. Thanks we give for sainted members who before us did great things.
Now they rest from all their labors and their works do follow them.
Let us imitate their actions and great faith they had in You.
Trusting in your loving guidance in all what we say and do.
3. **CHOIR:** For the blessings of Your word and faith sustaining Sacraments.
Given to this congregation for one hundred sixty years.
For the faithful Pastors, Teachers, all the leaders who have been
Dedicated to their Savior. Thankful praises be to You.
4. Prayers go forth for all the children – generations yet unborn.
Give them guidance and great wisdom to continue in Your Word.
They must know the Words of Jesus and His love for all the lost.
Pour the Spirit in their hearts to share the message of the cross.
5. Δ Let us be the cradle of Christ Jesus and His endless grace,
Waiting for the time when we will see our Savior face to face.
Now we praise the Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost - great three in one:
Alleluia! Alleluia! All the Glory to our God! Amen

Sermon

Text: Luke 1:1-20

Title: "Let us go to Bethlehem"

Please stand

♪ Offertory

Offering (*Offering plates will be located at the entrance of the sanctuary, you may place your gifts in the offering plates as you exit the building.*)

Offering Hymn #805 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, Your Son became flesh and was revealed to the world in the little manger of Bethlehem. We praise you for coming to this Your church, Bethlehem, Altamont and bringing generations here for 160 years zum Kripplein Christi to forgive our sins. Keep us steadfast in Your Word that we may say would always see the salvation You have done and made known to us in Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the church, by founding zum Kripplein Christi you planted a mother congregation from which many other Lutheran churches have sprouted. You have called us by the Gospel through pastors, teachers, parents, brothers, and sisters in Christ. Give us boldness today that we conserve the truth of the Lutheran reformation which has been handed down to us so that any who come to Bethlehem would believe, teach, and confess our salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you call us to baptize all nations, even infants, upholding children as models of faith. And you have preserved our Lutheran schools for us to teach all that You have commanded in Your Word. Give us mouths to say: “Let us go to Bethlehem” that we would ever live as Your baptized sons and daughters. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you preserve your church even during persecution. We praise you for the faithful witness of former generations in Uckermark not to forsake the Lord’s Supper but to pursue a land where it would be administered rightly as Thy true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Bless your saints today that we would receive your Holy Sacrament in repentant faith and that You would strengthen us in body and soul to boldly speak Your true word in love to all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You blessed our ancestors seeking good land from Wheatfield, NY and upon finding it centered their lots and lives around a house of worship, a school to teach, and a cemetery to lay their bodies to rest. We thank you for the temporal property, and for the bounty you have bestowed in the surrounding farms to give us our daily bread. May all that we do hallow Thy Name, honor the inherited property, and bear fruits of faith that trusts in the eternal land of the promised resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Additional prayers...

Heavenly Father, in the Bible we find the swaddling cloths in which Christ lies which has baptized, confirmed, united husbands and wives in Holy Marriage (*especially* _____), and blessed the saints militant and triumphant with saving faith for 160 years. Make our hearts glad in the Gospel and the heavenly hope of the eternal wedding feast of Your Son. Give us thankfulness for the food, conversation, and play we enjoy today that we praise You for keeping us cradled in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

✠ **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** ✠

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The cradle of Christ is Jesus' cradle and it is the Lord's Supper. Bethlehem practices closed communion in keeping with Jesus' words "my body given for you... the new testament in my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Bethlehem's forefathers graciously handed down this doctrine and practice to us today. If you are not a member of Bethlehem, please speak with Pastor Manley before the service that we may honor Christ and receive His gifts according to His Word. We would love for you to join our church. Please speak to Pastor Manley about Adult Catechesis.

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♪ Sanctus	p. 195
♪ Lord's Prayer	p. 196
♪ The Words of Our Lord	p. 197
♪ Pax Domini	p. 197
♪ Agnus Dei	p. 198

Please be seated

Distribution

- LSB #617** *O Lord, We Praise Thee*
- LSB #361** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- LSB #655** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*
- LSB #818** *In Thee Is Gladness"*
- LSB #585** *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide*

Please stand

♪ Nunc Dimittis	p. 199
♪ Thanksgiving	p. 200
♪ Benedicamus	p. 202
♪ Benediction	p. 202

Announcements

Please turn and face the cross as it leaves the sanctuary during the recessional hymn.

Recessional Hymn LSB #895 *Now Thank We All Our God*

Postlude

**Ja, selig sind,
die das Wort Gottes
hören und bewahren.
(Luk 11:28)**

*Yea rather,
blessed are they that hear the word
of God, and keep it.*



160th Anniversary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1861 ~ Zum Kripplein Christi ~ 2021



160 Years of God's Blessings!