**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**Living Hope**

**Welcome**

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way…

**our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.**

We reach out, desperate

          for comfort

          for balance

          for the familiar

          for hope

In the darkest times,

even a faltering light can be just enough:

the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!

**For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.**

*~Candle is lit~*

However impossible it seems,

hope is alive, even in the midst of this world,

and blessed is the one whose living hope reveals God’s good news.

**Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in God’s mercy.

**God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives.  Forgive our wandering, and guide us along your paths of peace.  When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this season, carry us back to you. Renew our faith and hope that we may proclaim once again, "Here is our God! In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**Opening** ***Hark the Glad Sound*  Hymn 239 *v 1, 3, 4***

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.  
  
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Reading**

A reading from Isaiah, Chapter 61

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
    because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
    to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
    and release to the prisoners;  
2to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,  
    and the day of vengeance of our God;  
    to comfort all who mourn;  
3to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
    to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
    the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness,    the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
4They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
    they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
    the devastations of many generations.

8For I the Lord love justice,  
    I hate robbery and wrongdoing;[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2061:1-11&version=NRSV&interface=print#fen-NRSV-18852b)]  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
    and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
9Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
    and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
    that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you. We have come with open hearts.**  **O let the ancient words impart.**

**GOSPEL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The gospel according to Luke, Chapter 4  **Glory to you, O Lord** | Una lectura según Lucas, capítulo 4 **Gloria a ti, O Señor.** |
| 16When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:  18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,     because he has anointed me         to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives     and recovery of sight to the blind,         to let the oppressed go free, 19to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”  20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” | 16Fue a Nazaret, donde se había criado, y un sábado entró en la sinagoga, como era su costumbre. Se levantó para hacer la lectura, 17y le entregaron el libro del profeta Isaías. Al desenrollarlo, encontró el lugar donde está escrito:  18«El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí,     por cuanto me ha ungido     para anunciar buenas nuevas a los pobres. Me ha enviado a proclamar libertad a los cautivos     y dar vista a los ciegos, a poner en libertad a los oprimidos, 19    a pregonar el año del favor del Señor».[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+4%3A+16-21&version=NVI#fes-NVI-25047a)]  20Luego enrolló el libro, se lo devolvió al ayudante y se sentó. Todos los que estaban en la sinagoga lo miraban detenidamente, 21y él comenzó a hablarles: «Hoy se cumple esta Escritura en presencia de ustedes». |
| The gospel of the Lord.  **Praise to you, O Christ.** | El evangelio del Señor.  **¡Alabamos a ti O Cristo!** |

**SERMON**

**Hymn of the Day *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* Hymn 843 v1,3**

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

**apostles’ creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the people**  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING**

**COMMUNION**

*Those communion from home can have the elements sitting out on a small table for blessing as Pastor speaks the Words of Institution.*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*The body and blood of Christ given for you.*

**Announcements**

**Next week December 13 the service will be on Zoom and live on YouTube, no in person option at this time.** You can check the YouTube version ahead of time by going to our website, blcelgin.org and click the button that says WORSHIP NOW. Both Zoom and YouTube will be options to worship iive.

**Thank you for donations to CDC on Giving Tuesday.**

**Communion Live on Zoom.** Please contact Cindy so that she can prepare communion packets for you to worship from home.

**Tues 7pm Service of Meditation and Prayer with Organ music** will go to a monthly meeting, the first Tuesday of the month and for now will only be available on Zoom and YouTube live**.**

**Grupo de Oración con Pr Jose (in Spanish)** Contact Pr. Jose or the Bethlehem office for more information.

**Christmas Services – Save the Dates!**

**Virtual Posada – Friday, December 18th**

**Virtual Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 20th 10am worship**

**Virtual Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th at 4pm.**

**Sending Song*Living Hope***

1.How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night

Then through the darkness,

Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is ﬁnished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

***Hallelujah,***

***praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*** ***Repeat***

**2.**Then came the morning

that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning

that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
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Declared the grave has no claim on me

Jesus, Yours is the victory, **Refrain**

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