

An illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus in a wooden manger. Joseph is kneeling to the right, looking at the baby. A shepherd with a staff stands on the right, and a ram is in the foreground. A donkey and a cow are behind the manger. The scene is set in a cave with a night sky and stars.

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

First Midweek Service

Wonderful Counselor

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December 4th, 2024
Noon and 7 pm Worship Service

As We Gather

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name Jesus—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Today we consider how God rescues us from the cunning counsel of the devil and blesses us with the wonderful counsel of His Son, whose Word of truth sets us free from sin and its damning deception. Jesus is given the title Wonderful Counselor because His Word rescues us from the lies of the devil and our own self-deception and leads us into God’s wisdom, which results in our salvation.

Welcome and Announcements

Jesus! Name of Wonderous Love

LSB 900 (vs. 1-3)

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev’ry knee
Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We do not always bring our sins to God, confident that our Wonderful Counselor has forgiven them all. Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace.

Amen.

Hark a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345 (vs.5)



Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

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Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts, O Lord, and illumine every part of our lives, so that we will be ready to rejoice at Your birth and be guiding lights for those who do not yet know Your saving grace and forgiveness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

(Read responsively.)

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 11:32-36

³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been His counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to Him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever.
Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:24-29

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Seventh Chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

²⁸And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching,
²⁹for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Catechism Reading

What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412 (vs. 1-3)

The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

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Message

Pastor Dana Allen Brones

Prayers of the Church

Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Mighty God, we come to You in faith, gracious Lord, trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel. Strengthen all who are in distress from the worldly forces that surround them. Assure them of Your presence, strengthen their faith, and lead them to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, we come to You, O Lord, who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us and help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621 (Evening Service Only)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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Dismissal

Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come at Your gracious Table. Strengthen us through the blessed gift we have received that we may be the peacemakers, the meek and the pure in heart. Keep us steadfast throughout our pilgrimage on earth and bring us at last to that heavenly banquet in Your kingdom with saints and angels in light everlasting. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338 (Tune LSB 700 Hyrfrydol)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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BETHLEHEM

LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

1423 8th Avenue North
Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250
(904) 249-5418 – Church / (904) 249-1204 – Preschool
www.bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dana Allen Brones
blcdana@bellsouth.net

Associate Pastor

Rev. Nathan McCarty
revnathan@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org

Vicar

Jacob Manning
vicar@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org

Preschool Director

Mary Maier
marym.blp@yahoo.com

Accountant

Paul & Tiffany Freeborn
blc@freeborncpa.com

Administrative Assistant

Erica McCarty
officeadmin@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org

Sexton

Dennis Reed

Music Director and Organist

Timothy Huber

Praise Team

Richard Smith, Alicia Crespo, Kevin Perryman, Elyse Matthews

Asst Music Director and Screen Coordinator

Elyse Matthews
elyse@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org

Newsletter and Eblasts

communicationsatblc@gmail.com