



**In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

**John 1:1**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide  
Holy Communion Service  
25 December 2023  
Christmas Day**

## **PRELUDE**

Pastorale and Allemande BWV 590

In dulci jubilo BWV 751

Fuga sopra: Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her BWV 700- J. S. Bach

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN LH 34 O Come, all ye faithful**

**O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels:**

### ***Refrain:***

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**God of God,  
Light of light,  
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:**

### ***Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God  
In the highest:**

### ***Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:**

### ***Refrain***

## OPENING SENTENCE

M: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen His glory,**

M: the glory as of a father's only son,

**C: full of grace and truth.**

*(John 1:14 NRSV).*

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## THE CALL TO CONFESS

M: Dear friends in Christ: let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and to ask Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C: He made heaven and earth.**

M: I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

**C: Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**All: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You, and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy, innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

M: I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

**C: I do.**

M: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

**C: I do.**

M: Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

**C: I do.**

M: Christ gave to His church the authority to forgive the sins of those who repent, and to declare to those who do not repent that their sins are not forgiven. Therefore, upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you; and on behalf 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. Peace be with you.

**C: Amen.**

**PSALM 98** - *Choir – chant by G. T. Thalben-Ball*

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**M:** Kyrie eleison.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Christe eleison

**C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** Kyrie elesion.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

**M:** Glory to God in the highest.

**All:** **And on earth, peace among those with whom He is pleased. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God, the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For You alone are holy, You alone are Lord, you alone, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**COLLECT**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray. Almighty God heavenly Father, grant that we who are enlightened by the new lights of Your incarnate Word may show in our deeds the light that by faith shines in our hearts; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 52:7-10

**R:** This is the word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 1:1-4

**Choir: Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia!**

*Tune: Freuet euch, ihr Christen - A Hammerschmidt (1612-1675)*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 1:1-14

Before the Gospel

**C: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

*After the Gospel*

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

**C:** **Praise to be You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** LH 623 Now sing we, now rejoice

**Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heaven our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies,  
Yet not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Saviour art,  
Thou my Saviour art.**

**Come from on high to me,  
I cannot rise to Thee;  
Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy child.  
Through all Thy grace and merit,  
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee,  
Draw me unto Thee.**

**Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father's grace divine;  
Death o'er us had reigned  
Through sin and vanity:  
The Son for us obtained  
Eternal joy on high  
O that we were there,  
O that we were there!**

O where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heavenly ground?  
Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
Their sweetest praises bringing  
In heavenly joy and light.  
O that we were there,  
O that we were there!

*(In Dulci jubilo) Tr. Arthur Tozer Russell (1851)*  
*Public Domain*  
*Stegmann (1588-1632) Tr. August Crull)*

## SERMON

### NICENE CREED: WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

**All:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally  
begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate  
of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

**CHOIR ANTHEM** Ding, dong, merrily on high – *arr. Wood*

**OFFERTORY**

**All:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Lord, in Your mercy.

**C:** Hear our prayer.

**HYMN** LH 21 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Saviour of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
All dominions, bow before Him,  
And extol our God and king;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
And unwearied praises be,  
Honour, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore.

*Corde natus ex parentis  
Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.413)  
Tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, and  
Henry Williams Baker, 1861.*

#### LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C: For that is fitting and right.**

M: It is truly fitting and right and for our lasting good, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory; that, seeing You in the Person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**M:** 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.

**C:** **For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take and eat; this is † My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

In the same way He took the cup, after the supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

## **PEACE**

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**O Christ, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us Your peace.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

**HYMN** LH 626 Come Hither Ye Children

**Come hither, ye children, O come, one and all,  
To visit the manger in Bethlehem's stall,  
And see what the Father in heaven so true  
Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.**

**O see in the manger - this strange little bed -  
A child, sweet and gentle, is resting His head,  
In swaddling clothes lying so humble and mild,  
Yet purer than angels, the heavenly child.**

**See Mary and Joseph, with fond loving eyes,  
Are gazing upon Him as meekly He lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.**

**Bow down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
O worship and praise Him as gladly as they;  
Rejoice that a Saviour from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.**

**Dear Christ-child, our hearts we now offer to Thee,  
O keep them from sin and from wickedness free;  
Yes, let them be holy and blessed like Thine,  
Thou Son of the Highest, Thou infant divine.**

*Ihr Kinderlein kommet  
Christoph von Schmid (1768-1854)  
Tr. composite*

**CHOIR** Poverty carol – *Welsh traditional arr. Roberts*

**CHORALE PRELUDE** *Away in the Manger - Sanderman*

**HYMN** LH 634 *Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

*Choir and Congregation a cappella:*  
**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

*Anonymous, U.S.A., c. 1883  
St.3: John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913)*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** While shepherds watched – *Sanderman*

### **DISMISSAL**

**M:** The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life eternal. Go in peace †

**C:** **Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace: according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation: which You have prepared in the presence of all people; a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for evermore. Amen.**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray: Thank you, loving Father, for filling the world with the new light of Your Word who became a human being. As we have been fed with His body and blood, keep the flame of faith and love burning in our hearts and shining in our lives. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, † and give you peace.

**C:** **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** LH 33 Hark! The herald angels sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king.*

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Please as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.**

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn king.*

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen 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.*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Revised George Whitfield (1714-1770)  
Martin Madan (1726-1790) and others  
Public Domain*

**POSTLUDE** Praeludium: Komt allen te samen - Jan Zwart

Pastor: Fraser Pearce  
Organist: Gina Dutschke  
Choir Director: Kim Worley  
The Bethlehem Choir