



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes: 9:45 AM



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2022
8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas is the only major Christian festival celebrated in the dark. We are the people who walked in darkness. But we have seen a great Light...this birth we celebrate tonight - Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Pre-Service Music *(Please maintain silence during pre-service music.)*

Call to Worship "Christmas Hallelujah" *Video by Cloverton*

Remembrance of Baptism

Stand as you are able and turn to the processional cross. Sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Baptism.

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, (†) one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

Bell Choir "Christmas Lullaby"

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession and Absolution

- P** God of grace and truth,
- C** **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- P** The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins." With great joy, I announce to you we are forgiven of our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (†) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**



Processional Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379, verses 1-3



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come___ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God___ In___ the___ high - est:

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!

Greeting

P The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of the virgin Mary, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and-reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional

"The First Noel"

Bell Choir

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

The Gospel is announced:

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And 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. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Soloist: Mary Did You Know



Christmas Message "An Announcement from a Stable" *Pastor Scott Henze*

Confession of Faith *Apostles' Creed*

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

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

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, that it would share the Gospel with all nations. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For those who govern and all in authority; for those who work to bring lasting peace to people everywhere. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For innkeepers and travelers; for those whose needs for food or shelter depend upon the generosity of others; for those struggling with addiction; for those who suffer neglect, and for all who are sick. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P For this assembly; for those celebrating their first Christmas; for those whose joy is diminished by loneliness or loss; for those absent from us; and for those who are far from home. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

Gathering of Gifts

"God so loved the world that He gave..." We reflect our heavenly Father's own giving heart with our gifts.



Anthem "O Holy Night" by Craig Courtney

Adult Choir



Offertory Prayer

- P** Let us pray: Merciful God, it would have been enough for You to give us the fruit of the earth by which we live. But in this meal, by Your promise, You also give us Yourself. Use what we have gathered here to share Your love with the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A note about Communion: We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.

Stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**



Words of Institution

Eucharistic Prayer

- P** ...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**



Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

The Congregation may be seated during Holy Communion. The ushers will release communicants from the center aisle. You may return to your seats via the side aisles.

Hymns During Distribution

The First Noel

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

Verse 4

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

Verse 5

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense



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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!



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"



Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Post Communion Prayer

P Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on Your grace. May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.





Candle Lighting Ceremony

The use of candles in this special service symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world. Each worshiper is given a candle to hold as a reminder that we carry the light of Christ with us everywhere we go—in our work, our neighborhoods, our schools, and our homes.

The candle in the center of the Advent wreath is a Christ candle, symbolizing that Christ is the light of the world. The candle-lighting this evening begins with the Pastor lighting his candle from the Christ Candle. He then lights the ushers' candles. The ushers then share that light across the congregation. (Please be sure to hold lit candles upright. The candle being lit should be dipped into the flame of the lit candle.)

As the light spreads and grows we rejoice that Christ did indeed come into our world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined ... Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life."

You are the Light of the World ... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to Your Father who is in heaven.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all with whom He is pleased!"

With the church organ broken down in Oberndorf, Austria, Pastor Mohr took the words to a poem he had written a few years before to the church's organist, Franz Gruber, asking him to write a melody for it that could be sung with guitar. From such a simple beginning came the beloved Christmas hymn, "Silent Night."



Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The Christmas Collect

P All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of Your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P God has come into our world in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. May you now go out into the world with His peace. Have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil, strengthen the sorrowing; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may Almighty God, the Father, (†) the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless you.



C Amen.



We go out into the world, spreading the light and peace of Christ.

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Dismissal

P Glory to God in the Highest!

C Peace to God's people on earth!

P As heralds of God's peace, go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude **Oh Holy Night**

*Carefully extinguish your candle, keeping it upright until the wax solidifies.
Then please return your candle to the ushers as you leave.*

*Thank-you to the many musicians, ushers, and assistants who
gave of their time and talent this evening!*

