



CHRISTMAS EVE
A Savior Has Been Born

December 24th, 2023: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Welcome to Worship!

Christ is born. Advent has been preparing our hearts for the joy we get to proclaim tonight. The light of the candles has been growing until tonight. The prophecies are fulfilled, and our attention is drawn to the child in the manger. God's prophet and his angel declare who he is: "Immanuel"... "a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." The light has shattered the darkness of our world. Oh, come, let us adore him!

Our Service

Tonight's service is an adaptation of the service of lessons and carols. It is traditionally done at the King's College in Cambridge, where it consists of nine lessons in total. Tonight, we forgo some of those lessons and carols, and in their place, we have confession and a brief sermonette. Toward the end of our service, we will worship by candlelight. You should have received an individual candle which can be lit following the instructions of our pastors when the time comes in the service. Parents with small children, please assist your child (or hold the candle for/with them). We do have a few battery-powered candles available should you need them.

Restrooms and Child Training Room

Both areas are located at the back of the Church to your right as you exit through the doors. Sound from the service is fed into the child training room, which also has dimmable lights should you need to use them.

A Hearing Loop Listeners & Large Print Service Folders

Both of these items are provided for your use and located in the information center nearest the sanctuary in the Narthex. Should your hearing aid have a t-coil, please turn it on, and they should receive sound directly without a loop listener.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Preservice Music

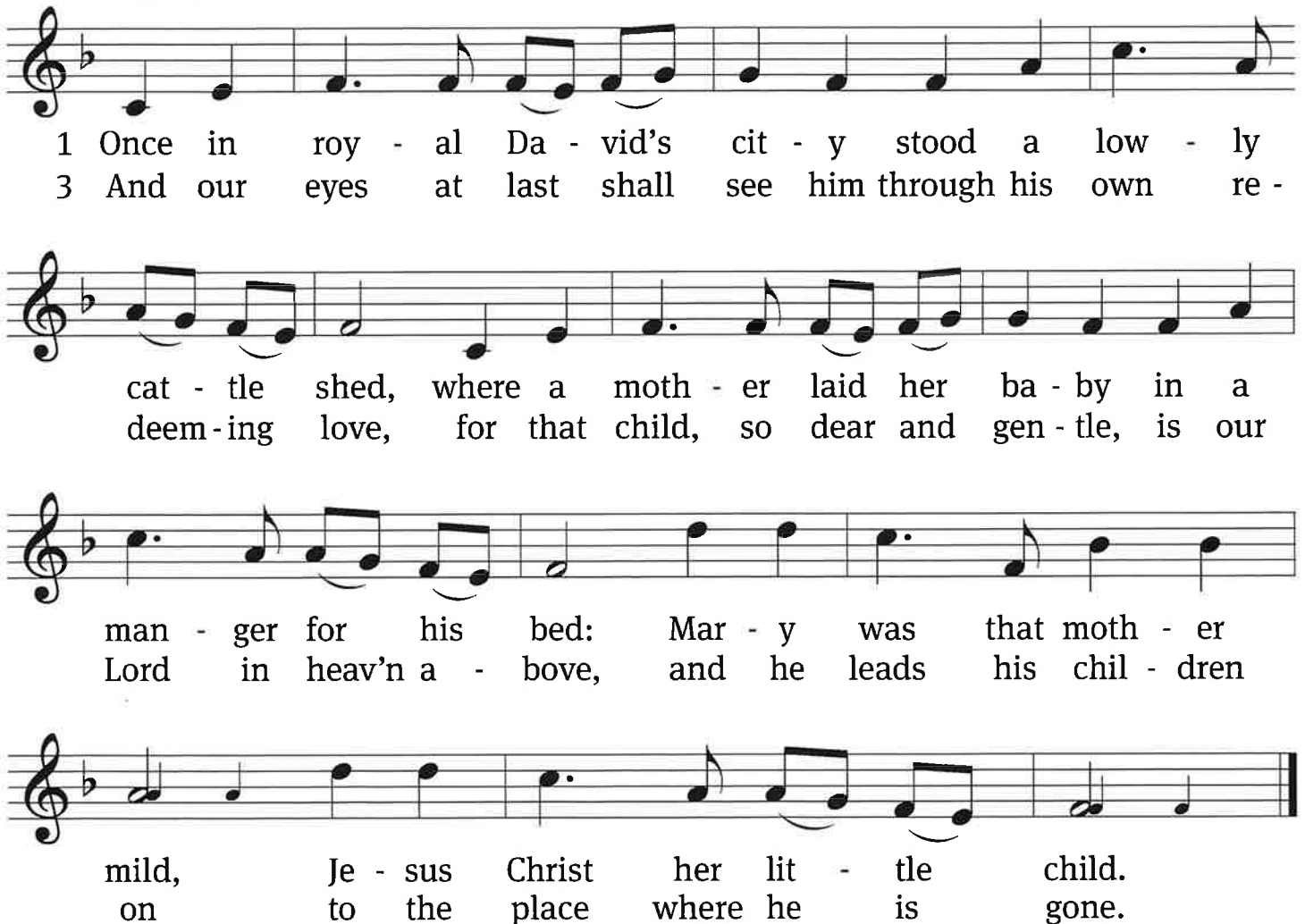
Opening Bells

Opening Anthem (4:00 pm)

Night of the Fathers Love
Arranged by Pepper Choplin
Sung by the St. Paul's Choir

Opening Hymn (6:00 pm)

Once in Royal David's City—343:1,3



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
on to the place where he is gone.

Please Stand

Opening Dialogue

We light five Advent candles now. Christ's candle kindles bright,
Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes with pure and holy light.

The manger marks the earthly start of God's plan to save the lost,
For Beth'lem leads to Calvary, and manger leads to cross.

For Jesus comes to save the world, to heal earth torn apart,
To bring true peace, to free, redeem, and bind up broken hearts.

Invocation

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

Confession of Sins

We have come together to praise and thank our God for the gift of Jesus. God created us to be his loving children, but we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God strengthen you with the joy of Christmas to live according to his will.

Amen.

Exhortation

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Be Seated

Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice—363:1-3



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Sermonette

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Offering



The majority of what we do here at St. Paul's is funded by offerings from God's people. Whether worship, education, or the regular visiting we do for members, while our called workers may be going out, your generosity makes it possible. We appreciate your generous gifts this Christmas season and always.

There are visitor cards located in each pew. If you want to learn more about St. Paul's, please fill one out and our pastors will be in contact with you.

A SELECTION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Lesson

Luke 1:26-35

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of

his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem—333:1-3



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Second Lesson

Matthew 1:18-24

An angel reveals Jesus to Joseph.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.



Carol

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing—338



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come
3 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then
sing this night, all out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news
life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and



of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.
peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be

married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Carol

Away in a Manger—340



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds go to the manger.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt—345:1-2,4

Christmas candles are lit as we sing.



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
its way in - to my heart—un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



but there is room and wel - come there for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

The mystery of the incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Carol

What Child is This—344

The second Stanza will be sung by our soloist (4:00 pm).



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 - en now 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!

Please Stand

Prayer

When all was still, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Immanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, ✙ and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain Standing for the singing of the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night—337



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts— sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Our Pastors

Pastor Michael Kampman
Pastor Elijah Ehlert
Will Hinn

Organist

St. Paul's Church Choir

Directed by Kathy Thurow

St. Paul's Chime Choir

Directed by Becky Miller

Instrumentalists

Wendy Holmes—Flute
Marcus Tadych—Clarinet
Kaitlyn Kampman—Clarinet
Sammy Miller—Saxophone

Soloist

Adelyn Kemnitz

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UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Day Worship

December 25th at 9:00 am

Regular Worship

December 30th at 6:30 pm

December 31st at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31st at 6:30 pm

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

Simply put, St. Paul's exists to bring Jesus and His Word to more people more often: in our families, in our congregation, in our community, and in our world. Just a few of the many ways that we do this besides gathering for weekly worship are:

Bible Information Class: Those who are not currently members but are interested in learning more about the Bible's teachings (and why we teach them) are invited to attend Bible Information Classes. There is no cost or obligation. These may be scheduled by appointment with either pastor.

Bible Class & Sunday School: We regularly meet together to study the Scriptures. Throughout the year, we cover various topics and discuss what the Bible says about them. If you are interested in joining us, you can stop by Wednesdays at 8:45 am or between services on Sundays. Sunday School meets for ages 4-13 on Sundays between services (9-10 am). During the summer, Bible class and Sunday School take a brief vacation.

St. Paul's School & Preschool: St. Paul's School exists to assist parents in bringing the gospel to children so that the Holy Spirit may create and nurture faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior; to provide a quality education with all subjects taught in the light of God's Word; and to help students use their God-given talents to serve others to God's glory.

Interested in Learning More?

If you are interested in membership, enrolling at our School or Preschool, or perhaps just have questions about the Bible, don't hesitate to reach out to us at 920-922-1080 or check us out online at www.stpaulsluthernnfdl.com. We look forward to having you as a part of our family at St. Paul's!