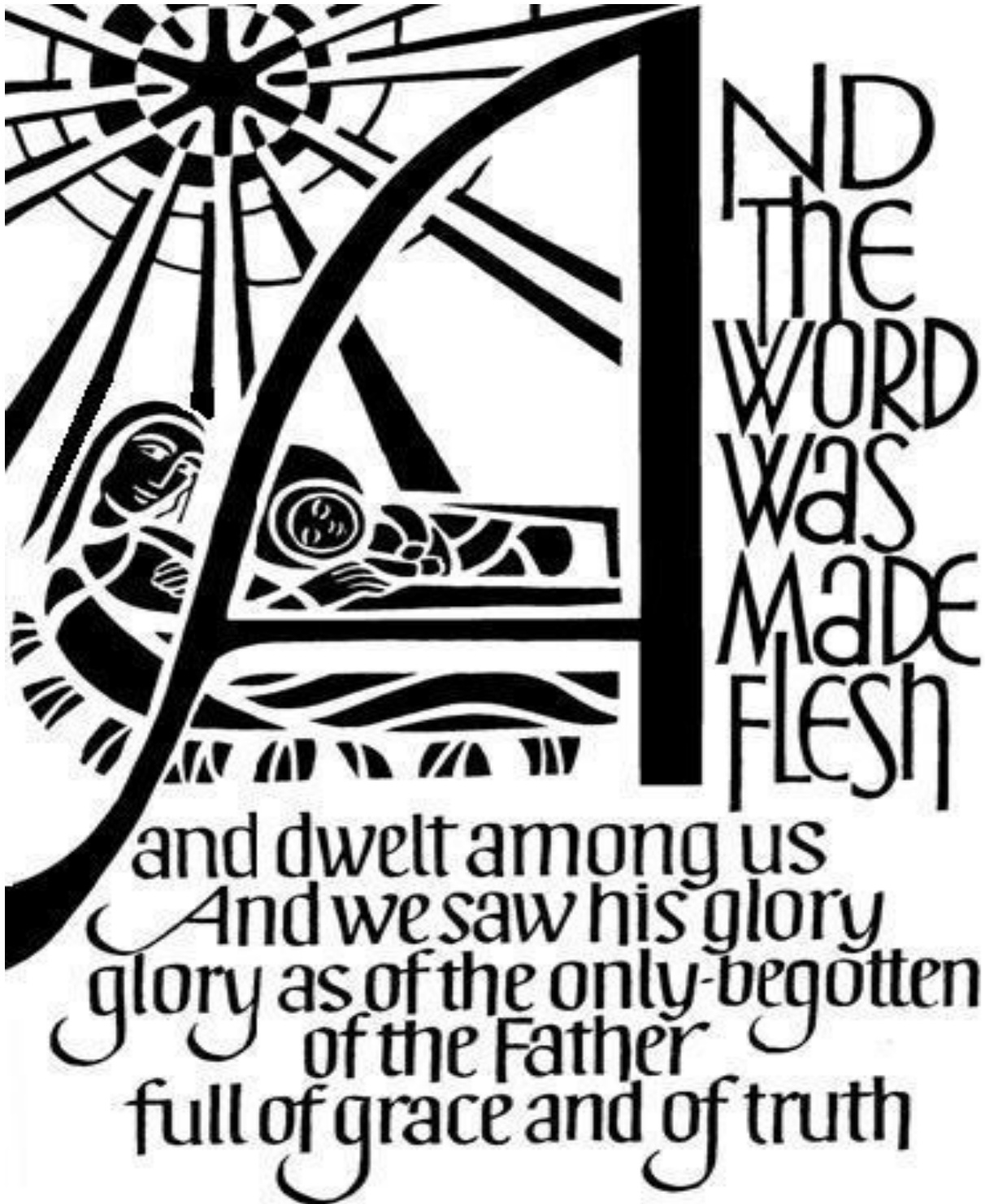


St. Paul's

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
North Fond du Lac, WI

Saturday, December 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Welcome! Today the Christian Church sings its praise to God for the mystery of the Word who became flesh, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. Our Savior Jesus is both true God and true man, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. We celebrate this great mystery, recognizing that Jesus' birth into this world was the first step on the road to the cross, by which He paid for our sins and earned our salvation and redemption.

Today's Service: Except for the major hymns, the order of worship for this service is printed beginning on the next page of this service folder. Hymns not printed in the service folder may be found in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. Today's service is based on the traditional liturgical order of service commonly used in the Lutheran Church. The major songs and canticles of the service have been replaced with Christmas hymns that reflect the thoughts and words of the usual songs in our service.

Learn more about St. Paul's: Should you wish to learn more about our congregation or our synod, please feel free to ask one of our Pastors. Pastors Ehlert and Kampman would love to answer any questions you might have. You can also grab one of our church or school brochures from the information centers in the entryway. Please ask an usher or a greeter if you need help finding them.



The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

various organ pieces

OPENING BELLS

Angels Sang at Bethlehem
St. Paul's Chime Choir

Order of Worship

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship #55

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711-86;
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.

*1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*2 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Please stand for the singing of the last verse of the hymn.

*4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

GREETING

Minister: We begin our worship this Christmas morning in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria! Gloria!
Arranged by Mary Caldwell
Sung by St. Paul's Choir

The Gloria in Excelsis has been the traditional song of praise sung at the beginning of Christian services for centuries (CW p 16-17). The following choir piece is a popular Polish Christmas Carol. Throughout is heard the angel's song of that first Christmas, Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Glory to God in the highest!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

The Lord has comforted his people, He has redeemed Jerusalem

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

HYMN

Joy to the World
Christian Worship #62

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

The First Lesson is normally followed by a psalm. The hymn, "Joy to the World," is based on Psalm 98, the psalm appointed for Christmas Day.

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.**

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

God has revealed himself to us through his Son

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom."⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

HYMN

Christmas Lullaby

*By George Stone using the text and tune of Away in a Manger
Sung by St. Paul's Choir*

The Word became flesh and lived among us

Please stand for the Gospel.

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 men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men 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 every man 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 received 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, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Christian Worship #35
with ensamble*

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.;
tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, st. 1-4,
alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, st. 5, alt

1 *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.*

2 *Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.*

*3 This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.*

*4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.*

*5 Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.*

SERMON

Based on the Gospel Lesson

Behold what God was willing to do FOR YOU

After the sermon, please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.
This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Please be seated.

OFFERING & HYMN

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is
Christian Worship #40

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.;
tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

During the Offering we will sing Hymn 40 verses 1-4. At the direction of the pastor, the congregation will stand and sing verse 5 as the offering is brought forward.

- 1 O Jesus Christ, Your manger is
My paradise where my soul is reclining.
For there, O Lord, We find the Word
Made flesh for us-your grace is brightly shining.*
- 2 He whom the sea And wind obey
Comes down to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Now God's own Son With us is one
And joins us and our children in our weakness.*
- 3 Dear Christian friend, On him depend;
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move you.
For God's own child In mercy mild
Joins you to him-how greatly God must love you!*
- 4 Ponder again What glory then
The Lord will give you for your earthly sadness.
The angel host Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.*
- 5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To him hold fast Until at last
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

Please be seated



LORD'S PRAYER Sung to the tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High* CW #63

*God our Father now we sing, To Your Name our praises bring.
May Your kingdom quick-ly come, And Your will in us be done.
Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o.*

*Daily Bread grant us each day, For for-give-ness, we do pray.
Make temptations fly away, Free us all from evil's sway.
Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o.*

*Tis Your kingdom this we know; May Your power in all things show.
Let our voi-ces ever ring, glory to our heav-'nly King!
Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o; Glo - - - ria in ex-cel-sis De-o.*

Please stand

PRAYER

M: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the holy gift you gave us when you stooped to our world to place in the arms of Mary the gift of your Son. We confess that by our sin we insult his innocence, by our doubts we mock His trust of your Word. By our selfishness we make light of His sacrifice. Forgive us and renew in us trust in your love and grace through your most holy Son. Help us to know You always as You are. Fill us with Your Spirit and bring us to kneel at your manger, there to confess: "My Lord and My God!"

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 on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christian Worship #61

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

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

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

- 3 Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**



A Blessed Christmas

We invite you all to return this coming weekend as our Christmas celebration continues. Our service schedule is a little disrupted this year due to the way the holidays are falling.

There is no Saturday evening service tonight.

Our regular Sunday Services will condense down to one service tomorrow at 9:00am.

New Year's Eve Service Schedule

Friday, December 31st at 6:30pm

Saturday, January 1st at 6:30pm

Sunday, January 2nd at 9:00am

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School, & Preschool

We exist for one reason, to fulfill the commission that Jesus gave to His people to *go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20)*. With that great goal in mind, our mission statement is pretty simple, we preach Jesus and His saving Word to more people more often.

*Our Staff stands at the ready to assist you however they are able.
If you are interested in church or school, have a spiritual concern,
or are ill please contact them.*

Church & School Office: (920) 922-1080

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