

*Christmas Eve*



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church**

1010 Adams Avenue, North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
[www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com](http://www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com)  
920-922-1080

## **OPENING HYMN**

(4pm) **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

Arranged by Joel Raney

*Sung by St. Paul's Choir*

(6pm) **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

Christian Worship 2021 | 356

*God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay;  
remember Christ, our Savior,  
was born on Christmas Day  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heav'nly Father  
a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*"Fear not," then said the angel,  
"let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior,  
the true and radiant light,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
And in true love and fellowship*

*each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
is filled with heav'nly grace.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

## **DIALOGUE**

### **From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

Christian Worship | 38:1,2,7

*Accompaniment by St. Paul's Ensemble*

M: Five Advent candles are now lit. The Christmas candle  
kindles bright.

**C: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes and warms us with his  
holy light.**

M: The manger marks the earthly start of heaven's plan to  
save the lost,

**C: for Beth'lem leads to Calvary, and manger soon becomes  
a cross.**

M: This Jesus comes to save the world, to mend the places  
torn apart,

**C: to bring true peace, to heal, redeem, to bind up every  
broken heart.**

M: And so we make a cradle new inside our hearts to hold  
God's Son.

**C: We pray, "Lord Jesus, be our guest. Fill us with light!  
Come, Jesus, come!"**

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

**C: Amen.**

*"From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing."*

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**C: On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

M: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,

**C: And they will call him Immanuel, which means "God with us."**

*"To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth."*

M: May we, like Mary, treasure up all these things and ponder them in our hearts,

**C: Reflecting on the miracle of God made human.**

M: Come, let us praise our newborn King!

**C: May our hearts be filled with joy!**

*"Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christchild lying there"*

## **CONFESSION**

M: We have come together to praise and thank our God for the gift of Christ 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.

**C: 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.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your Son, 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 9:2–7**

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

## **HYMN**

**Once in Royal David's City**

Christian Worship | 50

*Accompaniment by St. Paul's Ensemble*

*Once in royal David's city*

*Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
There a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*But our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.*

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>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.

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

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>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.”

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

## **HYMN**

**What Child is This**  
Christian Worship | 67

*What child is this who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where oxen now are feeding?*

*Good Christians, fear; For sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;  
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!*

## **SERMON**

**Luke 2:7**  
*Dazzled*

## **OFFERING**

(4pm) **O Little Town of Bethlehem**  
*Played by St. Paul's Chimes*

(6pm) **Where Shepherds lately Knelt**  
Christian Worship | 54

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn Babe, now frail! and in a manger bed:  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.*



*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.*

*Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me.*

## **PRAYER**

**M:** Let us pray for people all over the world who delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who delight with us in singing His praises. Let us also pray for all those who do not yet know the peace that comes from knowing that God sent His Son into the world to save all people.

**C:** **Help us to see through the outward trappings of this season to grasp the meaning of the baby born in the manger.**

**M:** To the rest of the world, He may look like just another poor child born in difficult circumstances, but to us He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

**C:** **Finally, let us remember those who are experiencing the fullest joys of being in the presence of the King; who now live in greater light than we, that multitude which no person can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who are, even as we pray, gathered around the throne of God and praise him every day in his temple.**

## **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.**

## **THE 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**

**Silent Night**  
Christian Worship | 60

*Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin, mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*



## **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Whether it's your first time with us or St. Paul's is your church home, we're glad you were able to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us! If you have questions about our congregation or synod, our Pastors would love to meet and talk with you! Feel free to leave your contact information on a visitor card or contact one of our Pastors directly:

**Pastor Michael Kampman** | Administrative Associate Pastor  
*[pastorkampman@stpaulslutherannfdl.com](mailto:pastorkampman@stpaulslutherannfdl.com)*

**Pastor Elijah Ehlert** | Youth and Outreach Pastor  
*[pastorehlert@stpaulslutherannfdl.com](mailto:pastorehlert@stpaulslutherannfdl.com)*

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

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

- **Christmas Day Worship** | December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am
- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas** | December 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

- **New Year's Eve with Communion** | December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas with Communion** | January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm & January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am

Afterwards, our normal service schedule will continue with worship at 6:30pm on Saturdays and at 7:45am & 10:15am on Sundays.