



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Services 2022

4:00pm & 6:00pm



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

Office: 920-922-1080

www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

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Welcome! On this holy night, the Christian Church remembers the birth of Jesus Christ. His birth changes everything for his people. The child of light entered into this sin-darkened world and shone the brightness of God's love upon all people: *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11 – the Verse of the Day)."*

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 a couple of lessons and insert instead confession and absolution and the lighting of our Advent wreath and, eventually, our Christmas wreath. 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 simply hold the candle for/with them). We do have a few battery-powered candles available should you need them.

Restrooms and a 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 it.

A Hearing Loop Listeners & Large Print Service Folders: Both of these items are provided for your use and located on 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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS *Please, stand as the bells finish and the hymn is introduced*

OPENING HYMN **Once In Royal David's City**
Christian Worship 343 Text & Tune: public domain

Solo: Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Men: *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.*

Women: *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.*

All: *Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children crowned,
All in white, his praise will sound.*

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

EXHORTATION

M: 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.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture of history of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child. But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of North Fond du Lac and for all those in our own congregation and our synod.

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, 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.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise Him each day in His temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

Prayers and petitions of the week

Let us sing the prayer Christ himself taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

sung to the melody of Away in a Manger CW#340

*Our Father in heaven, All praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.*

*The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.*

*For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.*

Be seated

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save His people from their sins.

M: We have heard John's call for repentance and preparation.

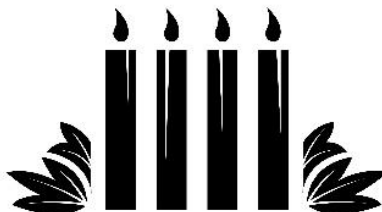
C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of the hope, faith, joy, and peace which Jesus brings.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

OFFERING

Offertory played by Chime Choir at 4:00 PM



SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Carol

What Child Is This CW#344

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 Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne 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!

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 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 increase 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.

Carol

An Antiphonal Noel sung by St. Paul's Choir (4:00 PM)

Joy to the World CW#353 (6:00 PM)

- 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 men 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.*

Third Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

A Branch from the stem of Jesse

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be their peace.

Carol

Behold a Branch Is Growing CW#360

- 1 Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!
As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race
and now begins to flow'r in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.*
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.*
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, and yet true God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.*
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory, who conquered all our foes,
bring us at last, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month, 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 be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 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 the house of Jacob 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 upon 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. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came CW#328

- 1 *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*
- 2 *"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*
- 3 *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!*
- 4 *Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and 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 be with child and will 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. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Carol

Glory to God the Angels sung by St. Paul's Choir (4:00 PM)**Hark the Herald Angels Sing** CW#350 (6:00 PM)

- 1 *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 th'angelic hosts 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 the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man 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 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!"*

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to Bethlehem to see the Christ-Child

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 of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ 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, and on earth peace to men 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.





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:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 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:
 his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 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,
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace 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.
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919 - 2008
 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929 - 2021
 Text: © 1986 Concordia Publishing House.
 Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

The mystery of the incarnation

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.

⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The 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.

Carol

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is CW#342



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is
 2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.
 comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.
 the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.
 but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
 Now God's own Son with us is one
 For God's own Child in mer - cy mild
 The an - gel host can nev - er boast
 To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!
 of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.
 Tune: Public domain

M: O God, Who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully kneel before His manger, so we may with sure confidence kneel before Him when He shall come to be our Judge, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Remain standing for the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn

Silent Night CW#337

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*
- 1 *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.*
- 2 *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!*
- 3 *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.*

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

St. Paul's Church Choir

directed by Kathy Thurow
with St. Paul's Lutheran School Junior Choir

St. Paul's Chime Choir

directed by Becky Miller

Soloist

Kaitlyn Kampman

Organists

Becky Miller 4:00 PM

Trevor Kuphal 6:00 PM

Pre-Service Accompaniment

Jack Jerman 4:00 PM

Samantha Miller 4:00 PM

Our Pastors

Pastor Michael Kampman

Pastor Elijah Ehlert

And, of course, we would like to thank all of you!

We love to gather around the Word of God and rejoice in the truths of the
Christmas Message.

A real baby, born in a real place, in order to save real people, real sinners like all
of us!

A Very Blessed Christmas to all!



Christmas Day Worship is tomorrow at 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship at 6:30 PM

Regular Sunday Worship at 7:45 AM and 10:15 AM

Join us for our regularly scheduled services as well

Saturdays at 6:30 PM and Sundays at 7:45 AM and 10:15 AM

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All Scripture Lessons taken from the NIV 1984 edition.

Poinsettia Memorials and Gifts

James Laudolff, Lori Mecklenburg and Zack Mecklenburg in memory of Betty Laudolff	1 - 8"
Don & Beverly Buerger in memory of Carl & Helen Roberts, Al & Dolores Buerger	2 - 8"
Robert Kresal in memory of Laurie L. Kresal	1 - 6"
Mark & Cherie Deibert in memory of Rachel Riedere	1 - 8"
Family of Louie & Lucille Kemnitz in memory of Louie & Lucille Kemnitz	1 - 6"
Jeff White Family in memory of Engman & Mabel Gilbertson, Marge Gilbertson, and Jerry White	2 - 8"
Donna Kollmann in memory of Frank Kollmann	1 - 6"
Mike & Mary Wendt in memory of Fritz & Cynthia Wendt	1 - 6"
Mark & Beth Ewerdt in memory of Arnold & Ruth Ewerdt, Merritt Helmer	2 - 6"
Anna Reitz Family in memory of Terry Reitz	1 - 8"
Scott & Sharon Schwartz in memory of Selden Willey, Robert Schwartz, Roger Schwartz	1 - 8"
Patricia Brennand in memory of Michael Brennand	1 - 8"
Trish & Dave Babler in memory of Joyce & Lyle Babler	1 - 8"
Pam, Jake, Amber & Jena Rupert in memory of Todd Rupert	1 - 6"
Scott & Laura Suprenand in memory of Eric Schumacher	1 - 6"
Gary & Gail Miller in memory of Eugene Miller, Bill Miller, Waren Miller and Barb Miller	1 - 6"
Bob & Becky Grace in memory of Nathan Grace, Melvin & Hazel Beaster	2 - 6"
Mark & Bonnie Wiener in memory of Robert & LaVerne Zemke, Francis & Dorothy Wiener	1 - 8"
Don & Kathy Thurow in memory of Edward & Alila Kionka, Paul and Loretta Thurow	1 - 8"