

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, 2020

ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church – December 24th, 2020– 7:00 p.m.

Introduction to the day

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

Still, Still, Still

Paul Manz

Good Cristian Friends, Rejoice

John David Peterson

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Austin Lovelace

What Child is This

Philip Gehring

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Flor Peeters

Away in a Manger

Peter Pindar Stearns

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother – now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

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!
 Je - sus, to thee be - ... glo - ry giv'n!

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;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given!

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thank be to God.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

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.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

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,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

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.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!



Let the heav - ens re - joice, and the earth be glad.

Psalm 96:1

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- ¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with
equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

Lullaby

John Ness Beck

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from setting 4)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

The first line of musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a half note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" are written below the staff, with hyphens under "Al - le" and "lu - ia".



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The second line of musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a half note F#4, a half note E4, a quarter note D4, and a whole note C4. The lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." are written below the staff, with hyphens under "e - ter - nal" and "Al - le - lu - ia".

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

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

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BIDDING PRAYERS FOR CHRISTMAS

In thanksgiving for the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation, let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. We pray that you will breathe a renewing spirit into your Church so that we might truly be the Body of Christ on earth.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. We pray that you will care tenderly for those who have no home, for all who live in poverty, and for those who feel abandoned or alone in this world, especially in this time of social isolation.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' We pray that you will strengthen us to work for peace and justice among the nations, and to resist the forces of violence and hatred in our world.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. We pray that you will give us the grace to proclaim in word and deed the gospel of Christ's redeeming love.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and greeted the baby lying in the manger. We pray that you will bless our homes and make them havens of peace and welcome.

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. We pray that you will hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress, especially those suffering around the world from the Coronavirus, as well as all those health care workers who are tending to their needs.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. We pray that you will embrace with your loving arms all those who have passed through death into the glorious life beyond this one.

All these things we pray in the name of your beloved son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, rich in love, we bless your name and give you thanks. In our need, you make haste to help us. You plant us beside streams of your wisdom, teach us in pastures greenening with truth, and guide us on the path of your promise. By your Spirit awaken our faith, that, feasting on your Word, we may love you more fully and serve our neighbor more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

May Christ, our infant savior give you the joy of angels,
the wonder of Bethlehem shepherds,
and the humility and love of the holy family.
May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, (1792–1872)

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Emma Lou Diemer

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Luther Zeigler

Reader: Anne Wheeler

Soloist and Cantor: Carolyn Stowell

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WELCOME TO ST. PAUL

Thank you for joining virtually. Please follow us on Facebook and/or sign up for our FYI Newsletter by logging into our website at stpaulcapeann.org.

POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who gave funds for the poinsettias during this hold season.

From Name

Joanne and Fred Peterson

Joanne and Fred Peterson

Greg and Barbara Olson

Lindsay & Garth Greimann

Mary Johnson

Dave and Carolyn Stowell

Martha and Don Johnson

Nancy McKay

In Memory of

Jan Coull

David Varella

Brook Faulkner

Those not with us this Christmas

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Pastor Luther will offer a short prayer service (30 minutes) on Christmas Day at Noon via Zoom. It will be an ecumenical service that includes parishioners from his other two churches, Emmanuel Church in Manchester, and St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms. It promises to be a lovely way to connect with some new friends and to share in some prayers of thanksgiving on Christmas Day. Details for logging into this service are included in Thursday's FYI newsletter.

PRAYER LISTS

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week: Heidi H., Pastor O., Roger K., Dan W., Caitlin G., Elaine V., Andrew G., Hope L., Amy P., Alane B., Daneen R., Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Carole F., Carrie T., Willy G., Henry K., Jim W., Brian D., Ron M., Judith O., Rachael and Tyler, Verna

Remembrance: Please keep the family of Jim and Karen Duff in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve the death of Jim's sister, Janet Childs who died last week from pancreatic cancer. Jim and Karen thank all of you for your prayers throughout her treatment.

Armed services: Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

Please see the FYI emails for more information