



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:30 p.m. December 24, 2022

*All songs numbers are from the red ELW*

PRELUDE

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST *(stand as you are able)*

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

O God, you have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken. For 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 has done this. Today is birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh! *(From Isaiah 9)*

Entrance Hymn: #283 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

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| 1. O come, all ye faithful<br>Joyful and triumphant!<br>Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem<br>Come and behold him born the King of angels:<br><br><i>Refrain</i><br><br>Oh, come, let us adore him,<br>Oh, come, let us adore him.<br>Oh, come, let us adore him,<br>Christ, the Lord! | 2. The highest, most holy,<br>Light of light eternal,<br>Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;<br>Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!<br><br><i>Refrain</i><br><br>3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,<br>Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!<br>Glory to God in the highest.<br><br><i>Refrain</i> |
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Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church -

Prayer for Christmas Eve

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: #300 "The First Noel" (Please be seated.)

1. The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain  
Poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light.  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
3. This star drew near to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.



Christmas Gospel (*please be seated*)

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

**Hymn: #276 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

Luke 2: 8-9

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**HYMN: #275 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth  
once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain*
2. Shepherds, in the fields a biding, watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar  
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *Refrain*
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*  
*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Luke 2:10-14

But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**Hymn: #270 “Hark! The Herald the Angels Sing” Verses 1,3**

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King!"

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS



### HYMN: #296 "What Child is This"

1. 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!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass 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!
3. 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 song of Mary!

### HYMN: #282 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

1. It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old. From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold. Peace on earth, good will to all, from heavens all gracious King  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
2. **Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly  
music floats o'er all the weary world. Above it's sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing,**
3. **and you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the  
climbing way with painful steps and slow; look now, for glad and golden hours some swiftly  
on the wing; oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!**
4. **For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old. When with the ever circling years.  
shall come the time foretold. When peace shall over all the earth, it's ancient splendors fling;  
and all the world give back the song, which now the angels sing.**

### HYMN: #289 "Angels, We Have Heard on High"

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis, Deo.

HYMN: #288 “**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**”

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice, give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born Today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus **Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was Born for this! Christ was born for this!**
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ever lasting hall. Christ Was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

Celebration of light

*The ushers light a candle from the Christ candle and light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle.  
The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

Lord God, you show us the power of one.  
You came to Sarah and Abraham and promised that through one child,  
their descendants would be many.  
You came to Zechariah and Elizabeth and told them that their one son would  
prepare the way for a King.  
You came to Mary and Joseph and told them that  
their one son would save the whole world.  
As the light from one candle fills this room, come now to us.  
Give us peace, give us calm and give us strength so that through your power,  
we can be the ones to change the world for you.  
Amen.

Hymn: # 281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

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 your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth; Jesus, Lord, at your birth!

*The candles are extinguished*

## Christmas Prayer

Almighty God, visit us with your peace and power. Give us courage to fill the world with your light. Stay with us this night and always with your spirit of love and grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your own son born in a stable, who came to give us rest. Amen.

## Christmas Blessing and Dismissal *(please stand)*

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

## Recessional Hymn: #267 "Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room; and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hill, and plains. Repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, 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.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you

Thanks be to God.

Officiant: Paul Krull

Organist: Pam DeVries

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*Thank you to everyone who gave poinsettias  
this Christmas Season!*

*Mary Marquard in memory of Don Marquard*

*Mary Marquard in memory of Kyle Marquard*

*Jay and Sally Van Wert in memory of John and Theresa Haydon*

*Jay and Sally Van Wert in memory of Pat and Alice Van Wert*

*Jay and Sally Van Wert in memory of Harlan Holstad*

*Jay and Brenda Van Wert in memory of Cory Robertson*

*Jo Coonley in memory of Jim Coonley*

*Jay and Jane Crawford in memory of Lezona Jensen  
and Suzanne Rutz*

*Della Speich in memory of Norman Speich*

*Christy Burmester and Family in memory of Jim Burmester*

*The Korth Family in memory of Norval Korth*

*Ron and Diane Weldin in memory of The Weldin and Bentley families*

*Rod and Sandy Pralle and Family in memory of Clifford Klein*

*Kent and Chris Morton and Family in memory of Lance  
and Sanford Morton*

*Jeanette Kirschbaum in memory of Joe Kirschbaum and  
Katie Kofoot*

*Connie Edwards in memory of Denny Edwards*

*Connie Edwards in memory of our parents*

*The Showalter Family in memory of John Showalter*