

Nativity of our Lord

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Wyoming, MN

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020



Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Merry Christmas! We are so glad you have joined us for worship on this holy night. Together, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior for whom we have been waiting. May your Christmas season be filled with hope, peace, and the joy of God's son born in Bethlehem.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Because fear and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope...

Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for peace...

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy...

Because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love...

God has come to us as a child. Christ is present in our world...

May the fire of these candles enlighten God's path of hope, peace, joy and love...

Brothers and sisters, be not afraid, even now; the light of Christ is overwhelming the world!

GATHERING SONG: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

- 2 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

GREETING

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 you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: "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.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. ³You have given them great joy, Lord; you have made them happy. They rejoice in what you have done, as people rejoice when they harvest grain or when they divide captured wealth. ⁴For you have broken the yoke that burdened them and the rod that beat their shoulders. You have defeated the nation that oppressed and exploited your people, just as you defeated the army of Midian long ago. ⁵The boots of the invading army and all their bloodstained clothing will be destroyed by fire. ⁶A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," "Prince of Peace." ⁷His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2: 1-14

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. ³ Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. ⁴ Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. ⁵ He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, ⁶ and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn. ⁸ There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰ but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ This very day in David's town your Savior was born - Christ the Lord! ¹² And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SONG: “GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

MESSAGE:

Pastor Christoph Schmidt

SONG OF THE DAY: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray...

We come to adore you, little one.

On bended knee, with hopeful heart, and eyes stretched wide with wonder and awe.

The gentleness of your gaze draws us into the mystery of all that lies beyond,

and in that place of falling into joy we yield all that we are to you.

And we pray for those who are broken and those who seek,

The trembling and the rumbling tummies,

The haggard spirits and the ragged lives.

For those who cling to the last best thing,

and those whose hearts pine for love.

Bless us, O Lord, whom we adore, and turn our faces ever toward you.

For peace, for mercy, for the sake of all that is holy.

We come to adore you, O Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GENEROSITY & MEDITATION

You are invited to give online:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=MG4RKUJT9HM6E&source=url

You can also send your offering to the church:

5879 Wyoming Trail, PO Box 583, Wyoming, MN 55092

SPECIAL MUSIC:

“BREATH OF HEAVEN”

LAUREN KROSCHER & KRISTINA STOYKE

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

INVITATION & DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to share the bread and the wine with those around you or give it to yourself, saying, "The Body and Blood of Christ given for you."

Participating in Communion is optional. It is okay if you choose not to participate – God's real presence is still experienced through the hearing of God's Word and the gathered assembly.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

At this time you are invited to light (or turn on) a candle while we sing "Silent Night."

SONG OF LIGHT: "SILENT 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.

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for joining us for worship this Christmas Eve! May God's guidance, grace, and comfort be your strength in these days of uncertainty. May we continue to love one another, reach out in the ways that we can, and be the body of Christ for a hurting and anxious world.

Join us for worship every Sunday morning at 9:00am on Facebook and at www.sharingchristslve.org

Permission to print the music in this service obtained from CCLI, License #7036612

Readings for the Day:

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Psalm 96

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

This week we are praying for:

Arnie	Jim G.	Bob	Kent & Brenda W.
Vicki & family	Fran D.	Wendy & her mom	Amanda
Pat	First Responders	Chad O.	Michelle I. & Family
Andre	Janet N.	Military members	COVID medical/frontline staff



December 24, 2020 – News & Updates

Holiday Worship Schedule

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm – In person (outside).

December 27th, Service of Lessons and Carols 9:00 am – ONLINE.

The office will be CLOSED on Friday, December 25th and Friday, January 1st.

ST. Paul Lutheran GIVING TREE

During this time of COVID there are many families, children, and seniors with unmet needs. Can you help? If you are able to make a special Christmas donation, follow the link to make an online payment, or you may mail a check to the church, marking where you would like your gift to go to.

Church Council

You are invited to **SERVE on CHURCH COUNCIL!** If you are interested, please contact any current member of the council. congregation would love to have YOU!

Service Opportunities

Building Cleaning: Please help us keep our building clean! Here is the online schedule.

If you have any questions contact the SPLC Covid team: safety@sharingchristslve.org.

- Sign up for bathroom cleaning [here](#)
- Sign up for vacuuming [here](#)
- Sign up for sweeping and mopping [here](#)
- Sign up for emptying garbage and cleaning high touch surfaces [here](#)

Office Hours

Pastor Christoph and Melissa work remotely most days. You can reach Pastor Christoph and Melissa at 651-462-5212, or through E-mail: pastor@sharingchristslve.org and admin@sharingchristslve.org.