



SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day

December 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.

"In Nomine Iesu"

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AS WE GATHER: God became man. It's hard to fully consider the magnitude of that statement. And yet, this is what we celebrate this morning. We gather together to confess and rejoice in the incarnation of our Lord and the unending blessings we receive from it. God in human flesh brings all of God's blessings to humans. Chief among them is His grace. John speaks of the incarnation, saying that, "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14).

Today we rejoice that God came not only to give us a baby in a manger, but a Savior who rescues us from sin and death in His very own body and blood. Luther once said, "Word and sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay Himself." Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus then, so we are told where to find Him today. He is no longer in the humble manger; but by His own promise, He is in the humble means of bread and wine with His true body and blood. The greatest gift we can give to others is the loving witness to the truth of His word.

For scriptural reasons, we practice closed communion. Visitors who are members of a sister Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod Congregation are invited to partake of the sacrament. Please speak with a Pastor if you would like to commune for the first time.

We are happy that you chose to worship with us this morning, and we hope you will worship with us again soon.

Please take a moment to fill out the registration card found in your pew rack.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P See, our salvation comes.

C **We shall be called holy, the redeemed of the Lord.**

P We celebrate the gift of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus.

C **We rejoice in our newborn King.**

(Stand and face the entrance to the sanctuary and follow the cross to its place in the chancel.)

Entrance Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB #379

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word
and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and

ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Christmas Versicles

P We praise you, God the Father.

C **You love the world so much that you sent your only begotten Son to live in our midst, and clothed him in human flesh and blood.**

P We praise you, God the Son.

C **You came into this world to give your life for us, that we might have the gift of life.**

P We praise you, God the Holy Spirit.

C **You presence among us and dwelling in us brings us life and light.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,

C **and the government will be on his shoulders.**

P And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

C **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.**

P The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

All **To God be glory and praise, both now and evermore.
Amen**

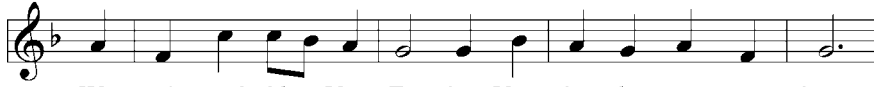
Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(be seated)

Chime Choir *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*
 French Carol, Arr. Frances Callahan

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;

together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-6

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”?

Or again,

“I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a son”?

⁶ And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “Let all God’s angels worship Him.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

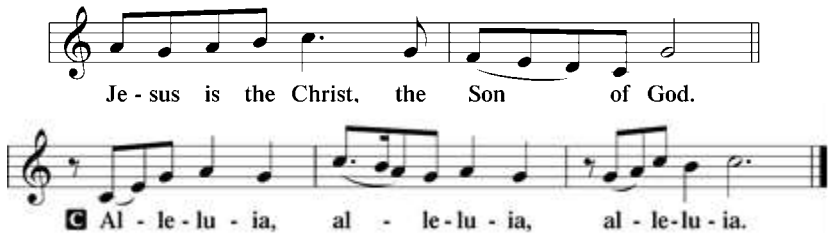
Common Alleluia and Verse *(please stand)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹² But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* LSB #380

Sermon

Presentation of the Offering

Chime Choir *"The First Noel"*
English Melody, Arr. Martha Thompson

Prayer of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+Service of the Sacrament+

Preface (*please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

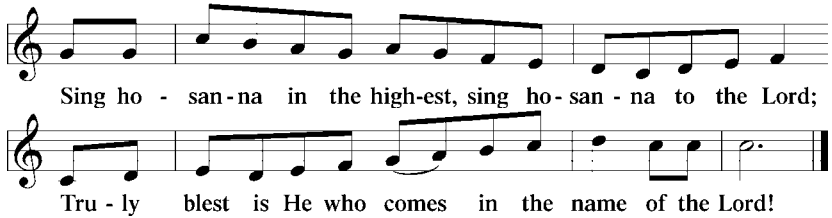
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All **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 Words of our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He

broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(be seated)

Distribution

All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. (Gluten free wafers are also available from a communion assistant.)

Distribution Hymns

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” | LSB #369 |
| “Let Our Gladness Have No End” | LSB #381 |
| “God Loves Me Dearly” | LSB #392 |

Nunc Dimittis (please stand)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser- vant De-
2 All glo- ry to the Fa- ther, All
part in heav'n- ly peace, For I have seen the
glo- ry to the Son, All glo- ry to the
glo- ry Of Your re- deem- ing grace:
Spir- it, For- ev- er Three- in- One;
A light to lead the Gen- tiles Un-
For as in the be- gin- ning, Is
to Your ho- ly hill, The glo- ry of Your
now, shall ev- er be, God's tri- une name re-
peo- ple, Your cho- sen Is- ra- el.
sound- ing Through all e- ter- ni- ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,
who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into
the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given
us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You

not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child. And the Almighty God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Joy to the World”

LSB #387

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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