



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Christmas Eve
Worship

December 24, 2021
7:00 PM

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis
Videographer: Herman Seidemann

Musician: Sheila Seidemann
Reader: Tom Kertes

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.
You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship.

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 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.

1. This is a candlelight service. Those of you who have gathered distantly may have a candle at hand for each person worshipping. Near the end of the service we will light these to both remember and yearn for the light of Christ which came into the world so many years ago as a newborn baby and promises to return in the glory of God.

2. This is also a service of Holy Communion. Should you hear the call of the Holy Spirit you are welcome to receive the body and blood of Christ after the elements are consecrated. Please prepare your home worship space with bread and wine or juice.

We will have a quiet Christmas Day worship at 12:00 noon, tomorrow, December 25 which will also be live-streamed with Holy Communion. Put on your new Christmas robe and fuzzy slippers and worship the Saviour, newborn and coming again.

We will worship this Sunday, Dec. 26 at 11:00. This will be a service of Lessons and Carols.

3. Pastor Diana and George thank everyone for their support, love and prayers throughout this most difficult year. Your gifts and good wishes have been much appreciated. May your holidays be blessed with the hope and joy of our Saviour. And may the new year bring you peace, love and joy.

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* Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us.

Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 283 (vs 1, 3, 4)

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

L: 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

L: 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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light this candle, turn us again toward mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; love us, restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

Sung to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

5. Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

(Tune: W Żłobie Leży, a Polish folk melody, Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021, *with permission*)

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 9th chapter

9:2-7

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

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 will do this.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Christmas Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 289 (vs. 1)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Our second reading is from Titus beginning at the 2nd chapter

2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 290 (refrain only)

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the refrain. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

The holy gospel according to Luke, beginning at the 2nd chapter

2:1-20

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

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. 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!"

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

L: The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Go Tell It on the Mountain

No. 290 (refrain only)

Hymn

What Child is This

No. 296 (vs.1)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No 270

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!"

We join with you and the whole church in confessing our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed. We confess:

**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.

Prayers of Intercession: (petition end: Merciful God.
(petition response: Receive our prayer.)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our locked mailbox.

In Canada you may send e-transfers to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca.

You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps at St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert or by using the "Donate" button on our church website.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

We enter into a time of communion. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Spirit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may prepare bread and wine or juice in advance of communion. You may wish to set up a small home altar for this purpose, using: a cross, a candle, an image of Christ (called an icon), and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. When the bread and beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Members of the same household worshipping remotely are encouraged to serve one another.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
 ...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray...

**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.**

L: If the Holy Spirit calls you to this feast of bread and wine or juice, I invite you to receive that which has been prepared, each in our own places, but gathered together around the table of God. Although we are separated at this time by physical distance, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Communion

L: This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen

L: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

C: Amen

L: Let us pray,

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

Candlelighting

**As the candles are being lighted in the sanctuary, worshipers who are remote are encouraged to light the candles in their worship space as well. Remember not to tip a lighted candle or hot wax may spill. Tip the unlit candle to receive the flame from one already burning.

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

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light has shined.

Hymn

Silent Night

No 270

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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Benediction

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

No 267

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

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.