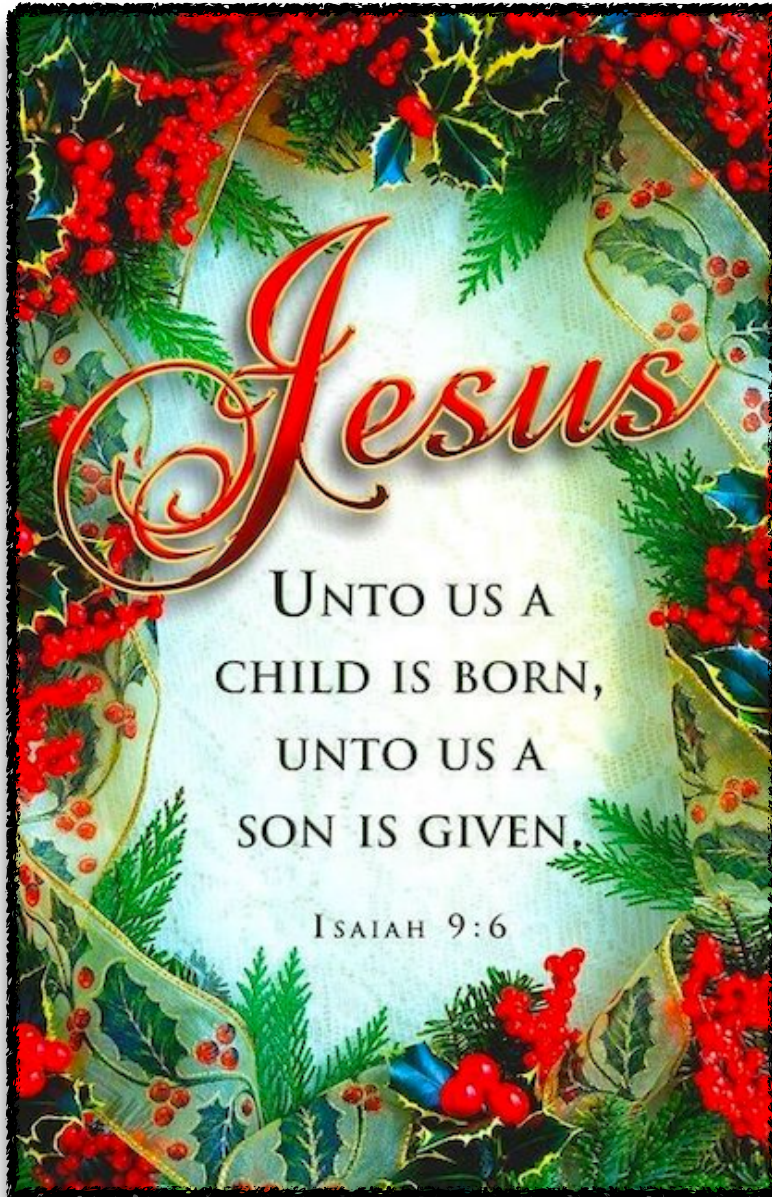


# Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord



**Christmas Day – December 25, 2021**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214  
Thomas Schuetze, pastor – [denverlutheran.com](http://denverlutheran.com)

## Order of Worship

Serving Us At God's House Today  
Organist: Lisa Sprengeler – Usher: Bob Rankin

Opening Hymn

*Oh, How Joyfully*

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily  
Christmas comes with its grace divine!  
Grace again is beaming Christ the world redeeming,  
Hail ye Christians, Hail the joyous Christmas time!

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily  
Christmas comes with its peace divine!  
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining.  
Hail, ye Christians, Hail the joyous Christmastime!

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily  
Christmas comes with its life divine!  
Angels high in glory, Chant the Christmas story,  
Hail, ye Christians, Hail the joyous Christmastime!

Welcome

### Responsive Invocation

- P In the name of Father,  
C **Who from eternity planned our salvation;**  
P And of the Son,  
C **Who became human when the time had fully come;**  
P And of the Holy Spirit,  
C **Who conceived our holy Savior in the womb of the virgin Mary.**  
P Triune God, bless us as we worship You in spirit and truth for Your Indescribable Christmas  
Gift of a Savior.  
C (says) **Amen.**

### Responsive Reading of the Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
C **Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.**

- P You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy:  
**C They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.**  
 P For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder:  
**C The rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.**  
 P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder:  
**C And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
 P Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end:  
**C Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,**  
 P To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever:  
**C The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

**We confess our deep need for the Savior God sent**

*(pastor speaks verses from Hymn 556; congregation sings verses from Hymn 392)*

- P Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, Death brooded darkly o'er me, Sin was my torment night and day, In sin my mother bore me; Yea, deep and deeper still I fell, Life had become a living hell, So firmly sin possessed me.
- C God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
 Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.**
- P My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining; Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining. My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suffered.
- C I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;  
 God's love was working to make me free.  
 Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
 God loves me dearly, loves even me.**
- P He spoke to His beloved Son: 'Tis time to have compassion. Then go, bright Jewel of My crown, And bring to man salvation; From sin and sorrow set him free, Slay bitter death for him that he May live with Thee forever.
- C He sent forth Jesus, that true Redeemer;  
 He sent forth Jesus and set me free.**

**Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.**

P The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. Through His life, death, and resurrection the incarnate Son of God has removed your guilt and forgiven your sin. Rely on Jesus and rejoice in His redeeming love.

**C Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.**

**Prayer for Christmas Day**

P Let us pray: Lord God, gracious Father, who when the time had fully come sent Your Son to assume our flesh and become our Brother, we thank You for Your truth and fatherly goodness in giving us this Savior, by whose birth we are delivered from sin, death, Satan, and hell; and we implore You, keep us unto the end in true knowledge of our Redeemer, that with all the holy angels, we may rejoice at His nativity and behold Him, together with You and the Holy Spirit in glory and majesty, forever and ever.

**C (says) Amen.**

**Epistle Lesson – Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Hymn (#380)

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

**Gospel Lesson – Part 1 – Luke 2:1-7**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hymn (LSB #358:1-3,5)

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

“From heaven above to earth I come  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

“These are the tokens ye shall mark:  
The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;  
There ye shall find the Infant laid  
By whom the heavens and earth were made.”

**Gospel Lesson – Part 2 – Luke 2:8-14**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Hymn (LSB #368:1,3)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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.

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

**Gospel Lesson – Part 3 – Luke 2:15-20**

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

A Christmas Creed

*Creator of All Things That Are*  
Melody: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

Creator of all things that are, the tiny atom, mighty star—  
“Let there be light!” a voice was heard, the Father’s all-creating Word.  
That Word made flesh with us to dwell is Jesus, our Emmanuel.

By God the Holy Ghost conceived, from Mary human form received,  
With us He lived, for us He died, by Pontius Pilate crucified.  
Raised from the dead victorious, this is Christ Jesus, God with us!

The Spirit of the Lord is sent, active in Word and Sacrament,  
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love  
Till, raised from death, we e'er shall dwell with Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Christmas Message

based on 2 Corinthians 8:9

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though  
He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you  
through His poverty might become rich.*

***Praise God Today and Always for the Grace of Christ!***

Hymn (#374)

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Christmas Day Offering

<b>Responsive Prayer</b>
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- P Dearest Jesus, hear our humble prayer on this holy Christmas Day.
- C We gather in festive spirit to celebrate the wonders of Your holy birth.**
- P We confess that all the words we speak and sing to Your glory this day still fall far short of the praise we sinners owe You.
- C Though in very nature God, You laid Your glory aside to be born as a man, to be our Savior.**
- P We thank You for coming here and sharing our human nature.
- C We praise You for Your loving concern for rebellious mankind, including us.**
- P We thank You for Your wondrous love which made You willing to sacrifice Yourself as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
- C We thank You for the deep peace and joy of Your forgiveness and for the privilege of living our lives for You.**
- P Your holy birth of the virgin Mary is an amazing miracle to us.
- C Give us pause to ponder in our hearts the wonder of Your glory, humility, and undeserved love.**
- P Your birth remains a deep mystery to others, who wonder why we would bother coming here this morning.
- C Use us as messengers to share with them the life-giving truths of Christmas.**
- P Holy Spirit, keep our faith alive and active. Take us all at last to heaven where – together with the angels and all saints –
- C We will sing Your praises and see Your wonderful glory with our own eyes forever. Amen.**

**We Pray the 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.

**We Receive the Lord's Blessing**

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

C (says) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (#386:1,4)

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heaven our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heavenly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christmas Season Worship Schedule**

Tomorrow	Dec 26	9:30 am	2nd Christmas Day
Friday	Dec 31	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve
Sunday	Jan 2	9:30 am	9th Christmas Day