

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP DECEMBER 25, 2020

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214
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**A WORSHIP SERVICE OF
SCRIPTURE LESSONS, DEVOTIONAL READINGS,
AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

Serving Us At God's House Today
Organist: Suzannah Miller
Ushers: Mark Hartmeister, Bob Rankin

Pre-Service Meditation

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:1-3.

Opening Prayer

Carol

Joy to the World (387:1,3,4)

P O Lord, open my lips:

C And my mouth will show forth Your praise.

P Unto us the Christ is born:

C Oh come, let us worship Him.

P Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs:

C My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. For the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is His name.

P Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture:

C His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name:

C He has performed mighty deeds with His arm.

P He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as He said to our fathers:

C For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.



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. 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. 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.

**DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FROM THE WRITINGS OF
MARTIN LUTHER, BASED ON ISAIAH 9:6-7**

❖ *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder.*

Carol Come, Your Hearts and Voicing Raising (375:1-4)

† † † † †

❖ *And His name will be called . . . Wonderful, Counselor.*

Carol A Great and Mighty Wonder (383:1,2,4)

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”



❖ *And His name will be called . . . Mighty God, Everlasting Father.*

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (380:1-2)

Scripture Lesson

1 John 3:1-5 (read by all)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.



❖ *And His name will be called . . . Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.*

Christmas Collect

P Let us pray ...

C (says) Amen.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High (368)



❖ *Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom.*

Confession of Faith

From the *Formula of Concord* and John 1
(spoken in unison)

We believe, teach, and confess that God’s Son from eternity has been a particular, distinct, entire divine person. Yet He is true, essential, perfect God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time He received also the human nature into the unity of His person. He did not do this in such a way that there now are two persons or two Christs. Christ Jesus is now in one person at the same time true, eternal God, born of the Father from eternity, and a true man, born of the virgin Mary.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem (361:1,3)

† † † † †

❖ *To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

Prayer / Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Romans 15:13

P Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Carol

See Amid the Winter’s Snow (373)

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May the Christ Child
bring you and your family
Christmas Joy and Peace
and may His love guide you
each day of the New Year.