

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord



Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2022

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook at: "St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church"

Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

www.clclutheran.org

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)

Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

A warm welcome to our Guests on this Christmas Day!
Jesus, God's Son, is "Immanuel" – God with us. May the Good News of His redemption and peace go with you today and in the future. We hope you will come and worship with us again.

Order of Worship

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Lisa Sprengeler – Usher: Bob Rankin

Opening Prayer

Christmas Responsoy

P Arise, shine, for your Light has come!

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P And the glory of the Lord rises upon you!

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P And the government will be on his shoulder.

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;
To be born of a virgin He doth not despise.
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

P Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to
all people.

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ
the Lord.

C Oh, come, let us adore Him!

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth!

Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,
"To God in the highest all glory be given!"
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Confession of Sins

P Almighty and most merciful Father, we confess that we have erred and
strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

C We have followed too much the desires of our hearts.

P We have offended against Your holy Law.

**C We have not done what we ought to have done. We have done that which
we ought not to have done.**

P There is no health in us.

C O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Spare us and restore us according to the promises You have declared to us in
Christ Jesus, our Savior.

**C And grant, for His sake, that we may live sober, upright, and godly lives, to
the glory of Your holy name.**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Announcement of Forgiveness

P As God has given to you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and as you have called me to administer the same, even so, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”

The Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Hymn

Joy to the World
LSB #387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing ...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy ...

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found ...

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love ...

The Christmas Gospel

John 1:1-4,10-14

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. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 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.

Confession of Faith

The Christmas Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son to be my Savior on Christmas Day.

I also believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, whose birth was announced by angels, who was worshiped by shepherds, adored by the wise men, who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, by whose gracious working in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and am privileged to live under Him as my King, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
LSB #387

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!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

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!

The Sermon

- ◆ Five readings adapted from the devotion book "Manna" by Carl Manthey-Zorn
- ◆ Bible Texts: Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 7:14b, Luke 2:10-11, Luke 2:10-12

Offertory Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High
LSB #368 (1,3)

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.

Christmas Day Offering

The Christmas Prayer (spoken in unison)

O almighty and eternal God, we praise You; we worship and glorify You for sending us the Christmas gift of Your own Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him we enjoy forgiveness and peace with God. Although we by our sins have deserved nothing but everlasting sorrow and death, Jesus has brought us eternal joy and life. We can never thank You enough for this precious Christmas present. Comfort and encourage us always with the happy message of Christ our Savior. Let the joy of Christmas fill our hearts and minds during the remainder of this holy season and throughout the year to come. Purify our speech and activities, that each day our lives may reflect Your love for us. Continue to bless us and use us as a channel to share with others the blessings You have given to us in Jesus. We ask this in His holy name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, through all eternity. Amen.

Lord's Prayer, Sung

Melody: *Away in a Manger*

Our Father in heaven, All praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us From heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for Provide us each day;
As we forgive others, Our sins take away;
In times of temptation, To lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom; O'er all things You reign,
And Yours is the power; All things You maintain.
To You be the glory, Resounding again
From all of creation, Forever! Amen.

The Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB #388

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching Over 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 angels chorus That hailed the Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/25) 9:30 am Worship Service
Sat 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Communion Service
Sun (1/1) 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

Extended Calendar

- CLC Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) Presentation: Sunday, Jan.15, 10:45 am
- Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting: Sunday, Jan.22, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, Jan.29, 10:45 am

January Birthday Blessings To . . .

Tristan Christopher, Jan 7	Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16
Jesse Cornish, Sr., Jan 11	Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19
Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11	Jesse Cornish, Jr., Jan 30
Jaydin Peters, Jan 14	

New Education Fund – A new fund named the "*EduK8 Fund*" was established at the Synod Convention last summer, to be administered by the Board of Trustees at the direction of the Board of Education & Publications. The *EduK8 Fund* will furnish an opportunity to CLC members to invest in the Christian education of our youth. Contributions for this fund will be used to start and maintain Christian schools across the CLC.

Thanksgiving Memorial Gift Opportunity – *"Dear brothers: Our brethren in the CLCI informed the Bd. of Missions of their plans to hold a large memorial service to thank the Lord of the Church for the work and ministry of Pastor VS Benjamin, the founder of the CLCI. They requested financial assistance for outstanding hospital and funeral expenses, as well as for costs associated with a memorial service at which they expect 5,000 attendees. With my approval, the Bd. of Missions has sent funds from Kinship to help with these expenses. As a result, Kinship is in need of replenishment. Please let your flocks know of this opportunity for us to express our gratitude to the Lord for Pastor Benjamin's service and for the blessing of Christian fellowship with the CLCI through offerings designated to Kinship. In Jesus' name, Pres. Michael Eichstadt"*

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions December 26-31 '22

Mon Matthew 1:18-23 The events we celebrate at Christmas were brought about by God Himself. An angel of the Lord was sent to Joseph to guide him in carrying through on his marriage to Mary, who carries a child from the Holy Spirit (v20). The Child, Jesus, will save his people from their sins, and is indeed "God with us."

Tues 1 John 3:1-5 God the Father has shown the greatest love in sending His own Son, who appeared in order to take away sins (v5). Through God's Son we have been cleansed of our sin, and brought into God's own family as "children of God" (v1,2). As such we surely do not desire to continue in sin, acting as though we were His enemy's children.

Wed Isaiah 9:6-7 The prophet reminds us that our joy at the Savior's birth is not our doing but God's (v7). The names by which He will be called show the Savior's character and work. His wisdom and power bring us to eternal peace. The everlasting nature of His kingdom was also emphasized to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Lk1:33).

Thurs Luke 2:25-32 Simeon, a devout seeker of the "consolation of Israel," is led by the Spirit to find that consolation in the child Jesus, now forty days old. Simeon praises God for preparing salvation for all people, both Gentiles and Israel (v30-32). Truly this means "a glad new year to all the earth!" (TLH85:15).

Fri 2 Corinthians 5:1-9 On the basis of God's salvation in Christ, Simeon was ready to depart this life in peace (Lk2:29). Similarly the apostle Paul looks forward to departing this life and being at home with the Lord (v8) after the "tent" of this earthly existence is exchanged for the "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (v1).

Sat Isaiah 63:7-16 The prophet, having seen God's people rebel against the tender care and steadfast Fatherly love of the Lord, calls upon God to remember His compassion of old and how in His love and in His pity He redeemed them (v9). As we stand on the threshold of another new year, we also rejoice to remember the compassion and love of "our Redeemer from of old" (v16).