

# The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord



**Christmas Day – December 25, 2023**



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

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

Member Congregation:  
Church of the Lutheran Confession  
[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)



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**

### **Welcome & Call to Worship**

#### **Scripture Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10**

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." 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. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. 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.

### **Hymn 361 (1-3)**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

### **Prayer**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, true God, Son of the Father from eternity,

**C** **Lord Jesus Christ, true man, who became fully human by being born of the virgin:**

**P** At great cost You ransomed and saved us lost and condemned creatures.

**C** **I confess that I am a sinner, and that I have failed to do all that Your Law requires, in my thoughts and words as well as my actions. I need Your love and forgiveness.**

**P** It was purely Your love, and not any goodness on our part, that moved You to leave Your heavenly throne and come to earth for us.

**C** **You freed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil,**

**P** Not with gold or silver,

**C** **But with Your holy, precious blood and Your innocent sufferings and death.**

P You redeemed us to be Your own to live under You in Your kingdom,  
C **To serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and joy.**  
P Just as You are risen from death and reign eternally.  
C **This is most certainly true.**

### The Christmas Epistle – Hebrews 1:1-9

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 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”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

### **Hymn 386 (1-2)**

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

### The Christmas Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Christmas Day Message**

Based on Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Theme

*"Isaiah's Glorious Christmas Proclamation"*

After the sermon the congregation rises to sing:

**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;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

**Christmas Day Offering**

**Responsive Prayer**

- P Praise, honor, and glory to You, O Lord our God. With angels and archangels we magnify Your holy name.
- C We bow before You with utmost thanks for sending Your Son as promised and for including us in the fulfillment of those promises.**
- P Even though we have no merit or worthiness within us,
- C You have again this Christmas assured us of Your steadfast love through the birth of Your eternal Son in human flesh.**
- P For rejoicing more in earthbound gifts than Your heaven-sent Gift, forgive us, O Lord.
- C For telling others more about earthly treasures than about the eternal Word made flesh, pardon us.**
- P Accept our thanks for the eternal gift conceived out of Your love for the world, and for bringing this divine truth to our ears and hearts.

**C Your Gospel message of a Savior born for us is the best gift we receive at Christmas.**

P Bless us and all who rejoice with us in Your Son's birth.

**C Bless the reception of this Good News in the hearts of those who hear it.**

P Bless the spread of this Christmas message in the world.

**C May these glad tidings bring hope to the discouraged and peace to the troubled.**

P May the lonely and discouraged find comfort in the assurance of Your peace in the Christ Child.

**C May the peace and joy of Christ's coming filter into the homes of our nation and the nations of the world.**

P This we ask in the name of our Savior, Christ the Lord, in whose name we join our hearts in singing ...

### **Lord's Prayer, Sung**

*Melody: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, Most holy be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth – in heav'n the same.  
Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You In grateful love we bow;  
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung By angel hosts and men  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue, Forevermore! Amen.

### **Closing Liturgy**

P We know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**C That though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor,**

P So that we through His poverty might become rich.

**C Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**

## Benediction

P The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C   
A - men, a - men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn 373

*See amid the Winter's Snow*

+++++

Pastor: Thomas Schuetze – Organist: Carly Mess  
Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

Additional Christmastide worship opportunity  
Next Sunday, December 31 (NY's Eve): 9:30 am (no SS or BC)  
*(There will be no evening service on Dec.31)*



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.

