

Jesus, Our Prince of Peace

A Christmas Eve Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – 6:30 pm

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado

Opening Hymn (Processional)

O Holy Night

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and darkness pining
Till He appeared, gift of infinite worth!
Behold the Babe in yonder manger lowly
'Tis God's own Son came down in human form:
Fall on your knees before the Lord Most holy!
O night divine – O night when Christ was born!
O night divine – O night, O night divine!



With humble hearts we bow in adoration
Before this Child, gift of God's matchless love,
Sent from on high to purchase our salvation
That we might dwell with Him ever above.
What grace untold to leave the bliss of glory
And die for sinners guilty and forlorn:
Fall on your knees! Repeat the wondrous story!
O night divine – O night when Christ was born!
O night divine – O night, O night divine!

O day of joy, when in eternal splendor
He shall return in His glory to reign,
When ev'ry tongue due praise to Him shall render,
His pow'r and might to all nations proclaim!
A thrill of hope our longing hearts rejoices,
For soon shall dawn that glad eternal morn:
Fall on your knees! With joy lift up your voices!
O night divine – O night when Christ was born!
O night divine – O night, O night divine!

P Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C (says): Amen.

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song:
C And His praise in the assembly of saints.
P Sing to the LORD with the harp:
C With the harp and the sound of a psalm.
P With trumpets and the sound of a horn:
C Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.
P Let the sea roar, and all its fullness:
C The world and those who dwell in it.
P Let the rivers clap their hands:
C Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD.
P For He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel:
C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
P Oh, sing to the LORD a new song:
C For He has done marvelous things!

Prayer

Read in unison by all

Heavenly Father, open our mouths to declare Your praise and our lips to sing a new song to You for the Gift of Your Son, born at Bethlehem to be our Savior. Lord Jesus, Holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee. Make us children of Your perfect light and heirs of Your eternal love. Holy Spirit, come to us with Your blessing. Cheer our hearts as we listen to the story of the first Christmas, when the Lord of all came down to earth from heaven to live for a while among us, to save us and bless us with His peace. In His name we pray. Amen.

Pastor's Christmas Eve Message

Part 1
God Promises To Send the Prince of Peace

Hymn 357 (1,4,5)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Recitations

Could saints of olden times rejoice,
 Could they praise their Savior with happy voice?
 Oh yes! Their hearts brimmed over with joy
 Whenever they thought of this heavenly Boy.

Mary Anna

How could it be? How could they know,
 These people who lived so long ago?
 (Many years before the Child was born,
 Who would bring **peace** and hope to a world forlorn.)

Jacob

The answer, you know, is simple and clear:
These men and women (so the Scriptures tell!),
Saw with their eyes of faith the One who would appear
To atone for sin and conquer hell.

King

They had been told by prophets of the Lord:
"God will send His Son, who will help afford."
Adam and Eve from Eden's garden were not driven
Before the first promise of a Savior was given:

All Children

"I will put enmity between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed,
You will strike His heel, Evil One,
But He will crush your head!"

Hymn 359

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Part 2 God Repeats His Promise of a Savior

Recitations

God repeated the Gospel Promise again and again
To provide comfort to the hearts of sin-weary men.

Mary Anna

Through the prophet Isaiah the News rang out,
(Which God's people are still happy to sing about):

Jacob

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:6-7

Lector: John

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder;
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and **peace** there will
be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
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."

Recitations

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Mary Anna

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him.
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-2

King

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5

Lector: John

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Hymn 347

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Part 3

The Prince of Peace is Born

Christmas Story Part 1 (Luke 2:1-7)

Lector: Jesse

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 Judea, 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.

Children's Song

Away in a Manger

Christmas Story Part 2 (Luke 2:8-14)

Lector: Joe

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 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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."

Part 4

The Blessing of the Savior's Peace Is Ours Too!

Recitations

The LORD will give strength to His people; King
The LORD will bless His people with **peace**. Psalm 29:11

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** Jacob
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Peace I leave with you, My **peace** I give to you; Mary Anna
not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your
heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may King
have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but
be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, Jacob
and I will give you **rest**. Matthew 11:28

"For the mountains shall depart and the hills be Mary Anna
removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you,
nor shall My covenant of **peace** be removed,"
says the LORD, who has mercy on you. Isaiah 54:10

Part 5

The Peace of the Savior Is Ours to Share

Christmas Story Part 3 (Luke 2:15-20) Lector: Derek

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. [KJV]

Responsive Scripture Reading

L: We cannot but speak the things:

C: Which we have seen and heard.

L: Sing to the LORD, bless His name:

C: Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

L: Declare His glory among the nations:

C: His wonders among all peoples.

L: How beautiful upon the mountains:

C: Are the feet of him who brings good news,

L: Who proclaims **peace**, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation:

C: Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

L: The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations:

C: And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

L: You will keep him in perfect **peace**, whose mind is stayed on You:

C: Because he trusts in You.

Christmas Eve Offering / Prayer

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.

P: Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in **peace**, according to Your word;

C: For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

P: A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles:

C: And the glory of Your people Israel.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

Benediction

P: 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.

C (says): Amen.

Closing Hymn 363

Silent Night, Holy Night

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Children

Jacob Cornish King Duran Mary Anna Sprengeler

Lectors

Derek Barthels Jesse Cornish
Joseph Cornish John Sprengeler

Organist/Pianist

Suzannah Miller

Liturgist

Pastor Thomas Schuetze

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Welcome to All to our Christmas Eve Service! What a privilege to join together in celebrating the birth of God's Son, our Savior Jesus. A special welcome to our worship guests. We wish you God's richest blessings in your worship on this Christmas Eve. Please leave a record of your visit by signing our guest book. You are invited to return tomorrow for a Christmas Day Worship Service at 9:30 am.

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin tomorrow. This year at St. Paul we plan to hold four services during the Christmas Season:

Wednesday	Dec 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day (1 st day of Christmas)
Sunday	Dec 29	9:30 am	Sunday after Christmas (5 th day)
Tuesday	Dec 31	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve (7 th day)
Sunday	Jan 5	9:30 am	Sunday after New Year (12 th day)



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