

**Christmas Eve – The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2020**

Service will be livestream on Facebook at 5 and 9 pm

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

PRELUDE MUSIC

5 pm “Joyful Noise” Bell Choir Anthems

“Bethlehem Dreams” Arr. by Linda R. Lamb

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” Arr. by Charles Maggs

“He is Born” Arr. by Charles Maggs

“In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 Arr. by J. S. Bach

7:00pm & 9:00pm

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” arr. Lloyd Larson

“O Holy Night” arr. Carol Klose

“Joy To The World” arr. Diane Bish

“In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 Arr. by J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion,
and bears gifts of mercy for all. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.

God, wonderful counselor,

**we confess that we have turned from your gifts
and chosen our own way.**

We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world.

**We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger;
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus
dwelling in and among us. Amen.**

God’s lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior.

We are saved, not by anything we have done,
but by God’s mercy poured out on us richly.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Through the Spirit living in you,

God give you faith to trust Jesus,

who is Love born for you, now and always. **Amen.**

5 pm Bell Choir -Organ Duet "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner
7 & 9 pm Organ "O come All Ye Faithful" arr. Jason D. Payne

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

5 pm – Bell Choir Anthem – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Setting by Martha Lynn Thompson
7 pm & 9 pm – Organ - “O Come, O Come Emanuel” arr. Sir David Willcocks

***READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

5 pm Bell Choir Anthem – “Away in a Manger” Arr. by John A. Behnke
7 pm & 9 pm Organ - “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” arr. David Cherwin

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Let us pray.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born!" Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world!" Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth!" Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Comfort those who long for children, especially those running out of hope or options. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them this night in joyful praise around your eternal throne. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

5 pm BELL CHOIR ANTHEM – "Earth Shall Ring" Arr. by Jason W. Krug

7 pm ANTHEM- "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" arr. Michael Helman

9 pm ANTHEM WITH THE SIGNS OF FAITH-

"Joy To The World" Kirk & Deby Dearman arr. Kris Crunk

*** GREAT THANKSGIVING** – *to be spoken quietly*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The presiding minister continues.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

COMMUNION

We welcome to the Lord's Table all visitors who are eligible to receive the Sacrament in their home congregation.

The Sacrament will be distributed at the steps. Please follow the directions given by the Pastor.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

***TABLE BLESSING**

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace. Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,

in this meal you give us a foretaste

of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.

Send us forth to make known your deeds

and to proclaim the greatness of your name,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

Christ, the Light, has come!

Emmanuel! Share the Light!

The people who had been in darkness have seen a great light.

The Light of God's Love shines in our darkness; our darkness has not overcome God's brightness.

Ushers will receive the light from the Pastor, then pass the flame to each worshipper as we process to the parking (weather permitting). When everyone has processed to outside and greatly socially distanced from each other, we will sing Silent Night. Please keep your masks on.

HYMN - *Silent Night

Nick Maldonado- Guitar

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

THE BENEDICTION

May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day. Almighty God, Father,
✦ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God

- The Candles are Extinguished – You may keep the candles.

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We pray that all worshipers may have a Christmas Season filled with the Wonder of the shepherds, the Joy of the angels, and the Peace of Christ's continuing presence.

Holy Communion will be distributed at the steps with social distancing and sanitizing procedures in place. You will come up the center aisle keeping social distance by the crosses on the floor. Once at the table, remove your mask, sanitize your hands, and select your glass without touching the others. Proceed to the Pastor to receive the bread and to the Communion Assistant to receive the wine. After receiving Holy Communion replace your mask, return by the side aisle, place your glass in the tray, and sanitize your hands before returning to your seat.

The staff of St. Paul's Lutheran Church extend a sincere thank-you to the congregation and friends of St. Paul's for the cards, gifts, and other expressions of love they have received during this holiday season.

Sincere thanks to all who have placed poinsettias or other flowers in the church for our services tonight. Poinsettias may be taken home *after* the 9 p.m. service. Flowers may also be picked up at 12 noon on Sunday after our virtual worship service.

Grateful thanks to our staff and volunteers who helped make this night of worship a meaningful one, despite all the restrictions we faced in this pandemic year. To our Bell Choir Joyful Noise and its Director Leah Mullins Bowman for playing at the 5 pm service. To Nick Maldonado for accompanying "Silent Night" on the guitar for all the services. To Troy Hollenbach and Matthew Platt for livestreaming our services. To Matthew Hayes our Director of Music, our sexton Eva Waldman, and our Secretary, Linda Angstadt for their dedicated work in the midst of changing regulations. To members of the Altar Guild and Worship Committee for decorating the sanctuary. To Eva Waldman and Earl Paxson for their faithful Saturday morning work including getting our Christmas trees and help with preparing the sanctuary.

All offerings to be counted in the 2020 year must be received by Wednesday, December 30th.

2021 Offering Envelopes are available from Eva Waldman. Please pick up your envelopes if you haven't already.

Services for the next 2 weeks will be online only. Join us on our Facebook page for a live stream of our service. ON Sunday, December 27th, we will have a service of "Lessons and Bells" in place of our traditional "Lessons and Carols." No Sunday School or Confirmation on December 27th. Classes will resume in the new year.

Thank you to everyone who supported our special projects this time of year: our Angel tree, the Christmas Jar project, our mitten tree, the food cards, the diapers for the Food Pantry, and the coat drive. Your participation helps to brighten the holidays for our neighbors in need!

You may make an offering to the church through our website www.SummerHillLutheran.org. Simply click on the online giving button on our home page and you will be directed to a secure site to make a one time or on-going offering. You may direct your offering from your checking or savings account or a credit or debit card. QR code may be found in the bulletin.

