

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
December 24th, 2020 A.D.**



PR=Pastor Ryan
L=Lector
C=Congregation

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PR: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

St. John 1:9

C: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for entering into our world and our lives in human form. May you be the light that shines brightly in our hearts and minds and world. Amen.

HYMN *He Came Down That We May Have Love* **ELW #253**

HE CAME DOWN

PRELUDE *A Christmas Pastoral* **(Based on the tune CRANHAM)**

Lester Groom

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed in God's own image;
long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds
as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by
his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

OPENING HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ELW #283 vv 1-3

ADESTE FIDELIS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy. **C: Amen.**

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

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. **C: Amen.**

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!

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 96

R: *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)*

L: Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

L: Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**C: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods. R**

L: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**C: Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

L: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**C: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD. R**

L: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity."**

L: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful
and all that is therein.

**C: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth. R**

L: You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **ELW #270**

MENDELSSOHN

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

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 St. Luke the second chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

TAKING FAITH HOME

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE NICENE CREED

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

PR: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Larry Sue
St Paul's Ringers

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF SAINT JOHN 1:1-18

The holy gospel of St. John the first chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

CANDLE LIGHTING *Silent Night* ELW #281 STILLE NACHT

Silence is kept for reflection.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

PR: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Joy to the World* ELW #267 ANTIOCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Offertorio Pastorale

Anonymous (1700s)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lectors: Mrs. Debbie Metheny, Miss Emily Metheny,
Miss Erica Metheny and Mr. Rick Metheny

Intercessors: Ms. Liz Medcalf and Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Cantor: Mrs. Tamela Rankin

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

