



**Advent Celebration
Communion Service**

December 1, 2021 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Serbin
1572 CR 211 Giddings, Texas 78942

Church 366-9650
Fax 366-2200 School 366-2218
Early Childhood 366-2870

SYMBOLS OF SALVATION: FORETELLING CHRIST'S BIRTH

OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS

This is a time of year when we cherish moments with family and friends by taking photographs. We look back on these images to remember what took place, to fill us with joy when family and friends are absent, and to remind us of their love. Tonight, we begin an Advent series on images through which God addresses His people, calls them to joy in His promises, and reminds us of His unfailing love and presence. These are living pictures of God's gracious acts to redeem His people. Tonight, we look at the burning bush and the Lord's address to Moses. This picture is even more meaningful because it was the pre-incarnate Christ who stood before Moses and spoke through the burning bush, foreshadowing the incarnation itself, which is the focus of Christmas.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: ♪ "PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY"

LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain***

Refrain:

**Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

- 2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain**

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Stand

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

PSALM

PSALM 105:1–6, 23–26, 43–45

- C** **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!**
- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
- C** **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!**
- P** Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- C** **Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!**
- P** Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
- C** **O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**
- P** Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
- C** **And the LORD made His people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes.**
- P** He turned their hearts to hate His people, to deal craftily with His | servants.
- C** **He sent Moses, His servant, and Aaron, whom He had chosen.**
- P** So He brought His people out with joy, His chosen ones with singing.
- C** **And He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,**
- P** that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws. Praise the LORD!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!**

Sit

- 1** Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
 Born to set Thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us;
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel’s strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
 Joy of ev’ry longing heart.
- 2** Born Thy people to deliver;
 Born a child and yet a king!
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all-sufficient merit
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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FIRST READING**EXODUS 3:1–14**

P A reading from Exodus, the third chapter.

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

JOHN 15:1-8

P A reading from John, the fifteenth chapter.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON: "OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS"

EXODUS 3:1-14

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

CATECHESIS

The First Article

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

What does this mean?

C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN: ♪ "ALL YOU WORKS OF GOD, BLESS THE LORD"

LSB 930

**1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
All you angels, now bless the Lord;
Come, you heavens and pow'rs that be,
Praise the Lord and His majesty: Refrain**

Refrain:

**Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!**

**2 Sing, you sun and you moon above,
Stars of heaven, now sing His love;
Dew and showers, you winds that blow,
Heat and fire, you ice and snow: Refrain**

**3 Frost of winter with song so cold,
Dews of summer, your song unfold;
Light and darkness, you day and night,
Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: Refrain**

**4 Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,
All you green things that grow on earth;
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: Refrain**

**5 Come, humanity, sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain**

**△ 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore,
Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain**

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Stand

ANTIPHON

**Ⓟ Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
Ⓤ and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

COLLECT

P O Almighty God, You are the great I AM who rescued Your people from their slavery in Egypt and redeemed us from our bondage to sin and its death by Your beloved Son. Grant that we may recognize Your presence, rejoice in Your saving gifts, and remember Your mercy in every time of trouble or sorrow; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

G **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

G **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

G **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.

G **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

☩ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

LSB 357

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain***

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

**5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain***

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ♪ "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!**

**3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4 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!**

Text: Public domain

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

P Bless we the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

☩ Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ☩ "ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST CRY"

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.**

**△ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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2021 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Service	Day	Date	Time	Detail	Offering
Advent Services	Wed	Dec. 8	7:00 p.m.	Communion December 1	General
Candlelight Carol Service	Wed	Dec. 15	7:00 p.m.		General
Song Service	Sun	Dec. 19	8:30 a.m.		General
Christmas Eve	Fri	Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.		½ Lutheran Braille Workers & ½ Bus Fund
Christmas Day	Sat	Dec. 25	9:00 a.m.	English/ German	½ LSS & ½ LBT
New Year's Eve	Fri	Dec. 31	7:00 p.m.		General
New Year's Day	Sat	Jan. 1	9:00 a.m.	Communion	General