

The Nativity of Our Lord



*St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin
Festival Worship Service*

Christmas Day
December 25, 2020
9:00 AM

JESUS, THE FIRSTFRUIT OF JESSE'S TREE

The promise made to Adam and Eve after the fall, the promise signified by the rainbow after the great flood, the promise of a land for God's wandering people, the promise of a Messiah from the mouths of the prophets to God's wavering people: all of these come to fruition in the birth of Jesus, God's only begotten Son. The Word of promise has become flesh and made His dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. So today we rejoice with unbridled joy! God does not leave us alone to our wandering and wavering. He comes as a baby, as our Savior, as our Lord, as the firstfruit of God's restoration of all creation. Rejoice!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN OF INVOCATION: ♪ "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" LSB 367

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain**

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain**

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain**

- △ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain**

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Stand

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

HYMN: ♪ "O DU FRÖHLICHE"

**O du fröhliche, O du selige,
Gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
Welt gib verloren, Christ ward geboren:
Freue, freue dich, O Christenheit!**

**O du fröhliche, O du selige,
Friedenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
Christ ist erschienen Uns zu versöhnen:
Freue, Freue dich, O Christenheit!**

**O du fröhliche, O du selige,
Lebenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
König der Ehren, Dich voll'n wir ehren:
Freue, Freue dich, O Christenheit!**

INTROIT

PSALM 98:1-4

- C** **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.**
P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His

righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

- ☐ 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.**
- ☐ 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.**

Sit

HYMN: ♪“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”

LSB 376

- 1 Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**
- 3 For He is our childhood’s pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.**
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!**

Text: Public domain

Stand

KYRIE

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

C **Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 52:7-10

- P** The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter. 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.
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: ♪ **"LASST UNS ALLE FROHLICH SEIN"**

**Lasst uns alle fröhlich sein,
Preisen Gott den Herren,
Der sein liebes Söhnelein
Uns selbst tut verehren!**

**Er kommt in das Jammertal,
Wird ein Knecht auf Erden,
Damit wir im Himmelssaal
Grosse Herren werden.**

**Er wird arm, wir werden reich,
Ist das nicht ein Wunder?
Drum lobt Gott im Himmelreich
Allzeit wie jetzunder!**

**O Herr Christ, nimm unser wahr
Durch dein'n heil'gen Namen!
Gib uns ein gut neues Jahr!
Wer's begehrt, sprech': Amen.**

Stand

ALLELUIA

G ♪ **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

G ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was

made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ♪ "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"

LSB 359

- 1 **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

- 2 **Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

**3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.**

**4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.**

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE"

BY PASTOR JOHN SCHMIDT

Stand

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

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

G Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Let us bring before the God of mercy prayers of thanks, praise, and intercession.

Brief silence

P Thanks and praise to You, Lord God, for not leaving us alone in the universe, and instead coming to us as one of us. We thank You for promising a Savior to Adam and Eve, for promising to bless all nations through the descendant of Sarah and Abraham, for saving Your chosen people from slavery in Egypt, and for sending prophets to keep the promise alive when all seemed lost. We thank You that in the fullness of time, Your Son, Jesus, was born to be the firstfruit of Your new creation.

C On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.

P For pastors, teachers, and all workers in the church, and for all the people, that together we bear the fruit of the Spirit of Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For missionaries near and far, that the grace and truth of Jesus shine through their lives and multiply the kingdom of God throughout the world.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For the leaders of our nation, state, and local community, that they govern justly and faithfully, seeking peace and the well-being of the people they serve.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For those who serve in the military and for anyone far away from home on this joyous day, that the message of the Word made flesh bring them the presence of God in the midst of loneliness.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For those who are sick, dying, or mourning, that the Christmas message bring the light of Christ into all the dark places of our lives.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For all who travel during this season of family gatherings, that they arrive safely at their destinations.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P For us who are gathered here to worship today, that Jesus, the firstfruit of the tree of Jesse, inspire us to bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P In remembrance of those dear ones from our midst who have died, we give thanks. As they were blessed by the grace and truth of the Word of life and now rejoice in the presence of God, grant that we one day join them with all the choirs of angels singing God's praise for all eternity.

C **On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.**

P Hear our prayers, O Lord, both those we have spoken and those prayers that are too deep for words, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, given us this day to save us.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Sit

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

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Stand

GERMAN AND ENGLISH BENEDICTION

P Now receive the benediction from our Lord, the great Giver of all good gifts:

GERMAN BENEDICTION

P Der Herr segne dich und behüte dich!
Der Herr erleuchte sein Angesicht über dich
Und sei dir gnädig!
Der Herr erhebe sein Angesicht auf dich und
Gebe dir Frieden!

🎵 Amen, Amen, Amen.

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.

G  Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"

LSB 388

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain***

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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