

The Nativity of Our Lord



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

Christmas Day
December 25, 2021
9:00 AM

JESUS, THE LIVING NATIVITY

Christmas involves many symbols, from the ornaments on our trees to the gifts we place under those trees. But today, we do not gather under a symbol or to imagine something. We come to meet our Lord, who came in flesh from the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit—just as God had promised long ago. This is not a parable, and the manger is no symbol. This is the truest of truths, and the manger held the real God incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord. He has come to embrace our fallen humanity, to wear our sin on the cross, and to die the death that sin caused, so that we might share in His divine life—forgiven, restored, and destined for a life death cannot overcome. Christmas is filled with symbols, but Jesus is the real thing, and His nativity is where God’s love is incarnate for us and for our salvation. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN: ♪“IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET”

**Ihr kinderlein kommet, O kommet doch all’,
Zur Krippe her kommet in Bethlehems Stall
Und seht, was in dieser hoch-heiligen Nacht
Der Vater im Himmel für Freude uns macht!**

**O seht in der Krippe, im nächtlichen Stall,
Seht hier bei des Lichteins hellglänz-endem Strahl,
In reinlichen Windeln, das himmlische Kind,
Viel schöner und holder, als Engelein sind.**

**O beugt wie die Hirten anbetend die Knie,
Erhebet die Händlein und danket, wie sie!
Stimmt freudig, ihr Kinder, wer sollt’ sich nicht freu'n,
Stimmt freudig zum Jubel der Engel mit ein!**

WELCOME

1 O come, all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him
 Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,
 Light of Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
 Son of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God
 In the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
 Born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing! *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.

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

SB 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!

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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.**

Sit

HYMN: ♪“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

LSB 380

- 1** Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Refrain:

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- 2** Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

**3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. Refrain**

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Stand

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father, You promised this day through the prophets. Grant us grace by Your Spirit to receive the Savior as Your Son in flesh, to rejoice that You have kept Your promise and delivered to us a Savior from sin and death, and to remember this love in all the days to come; 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

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: ♪"O DU FROHLICHE"

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

P The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: ♪"WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS"

GRADUAL

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. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: ♪“SONGS OF THE ANGELS”

EPISTLE

TITUS 2:11–14

P The Epistle is from Titus, the second chapter.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA

C ♪ **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom He is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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: ♪ "GOTT IST DIE LIEBE"

- 1. Gott ist die Liebe, lässt mich erlösen,
Gott ist die Liebe, Er liebt auch mich,
Drum sag' ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe!
Gott ist die Liebe, Er liebt auch mich.**
- 2. Er sandte Jesum, den treuen Heiland
Er sandte Jesum und macht' mich los.
Drum sag' ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe!
Gott ist die Liebe, Er liebt auch mich.**
- 3. Dich will ich preisen, Du ew'ge Liebe:
Dich will ich loben, so lang ich bin!
Drum sag' ich noch einmal: Gott ist die Liebe.
Gott ist die Liebe, er liebt auch mich.**

SERMON: "THE LIVING NATIVITY"

ISAIAH 9:2-7

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

C ♪ 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 On this night when the darkness of sin and death are shattered by the dawn of Christ's light, let us pray with confidence on behalf of all people who gather in welcome and all people as they have need. That we be moved to rejoice in the Lord who has kept His Word and delivered up His own Son to be our Savior, and that we trust in Him always and proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord would bless His Church with faithful preachers of this Gospel and faithful teachers of the faith, and that the Lord would raise up many for church work vocations, for service on the mission field, and as catechists to those new to the faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord would grant mercy to the nations and deliver us from war and terror and encourage the leaders and the people to peace, and that the Lord would grant special blessing to our president, governor, legislators, and magistrates, that with integrity and wisdom they fulfill the trust we have placed in them, and that we be good citizens and good neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord would protect and defend those who stand guard over us as police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, and that the Lord bless the men and women who serve us in the military, far from home and family, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the sick be healed, the suffering relieved, the troubled consoled, the dying and the grieving comforted, and that everyone with any affliction be granted patience in their trials and hope in the mercy of God, [*especially . . . , and those we name in our hearts . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we be prepared to receive the Lord in His body and blood in this Holy Sacrament, and that we be blest with unity of faith and harmony in our life together as a church body and as a congregation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we have faith to acknowledge the Lord's incarnation, worshiping Him in spirit and in truth, with voices raised in praise and thanksgiving and with the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we recall the saints who trusted in the Lord in life and died in His peace and favor, and that we be joined with them where light and life are eternal, in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, Father, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray and for whose merits we plead, by the power of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

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Stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

LSB 368

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

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Stand

COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, maker of all things, we give You thanks this day for the birth of Your Son to the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, for His birth in us by faith, and for His presence in this Holy Sacrament. Grant that the joy, peace, and love we have known during this holy time of remembering our Savior's birth may accompany us all our days and that we be kept until the day when He comes again in His glory to bring to completion all things; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN: ♪ **"STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT!"**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar,
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht,
Durch der Engel Halleluja
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter, ist da,
Christ, der Retter, ist da!**

**Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt.**

- P** German Benediction
C **♪Amen, amen, amen**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C **♪Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ♪“JOY TO THE WORLD”

LSB 387

- 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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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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