



**For
to us
a child is
born, to us
a son is given.**

Isaiah 9:6

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2100 16th St. SW, Austin, MN 55912
Christmas Day
December 25, 2020

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: Oh Lord God, our heavenly Father, who of Your great goodness and mercy has caused Your only begotten Son to become incarnate, that we through Him might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death; O Lord, we pray, enlighten our hearts that we may be truly thankful for His gracious incarnation and birth, that we may be comforted by His birth in all times of tribulation and temptation, and in the end receive everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, and our precious Savior. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PASTOR: Call to worship (Reading of Hymn 85:6,7)

HYMN 708 O Come All Ye Faithful

¹ Oh, Come, All ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels.

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

² God of God, Light of Light,
Born of a virgin to earth He comes,
Very God, Begotten, not created.

Refrain:

³ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing with exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God In the highest.

Refrain

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

Refrain

Pastor: Oh, Lord, open Thou my lips.

Congr: And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Pastor: Make Haste oh God to deliver me.

Congr: Make haste to help me O Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3,17,19-21

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!*

For His mercy endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

³ And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west,

From the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Fools, because of their transgression,

And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.

¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,

And He saved them out of their distresses.

²⁰ He sent His word and healed them,

And delivered them from their destructions.

²¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness,

And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congr: And also with you.

Pastor: The Collect.

Congr: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called

Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace

There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (NKJV)

Pastor: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ **Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”**

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (NKJV)

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE ATHANASIAN CREED

He, therefore, that will be saved must...also believe faithfully the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world; Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood;

Who, although He be God and Man, yet He is not two, but one Christ; One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking the manhood into God; One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by Unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead; He ascended into heaven; He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give an account of their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. This is the catholic (universal) faith; which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.

HYMN: 94 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

¹ Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

² Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

³ Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

⁴ Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

THE SERMON: Luke 2:10-11

Theme: Have No Fear! The Savior Has Been Born!

PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

Your Christmas offering may be left in the plate at the entrance to the nave.

HYMN 136 Angels from the Realms of Glory

¹Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

²Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light:
Come and worship, Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

³Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

⁴Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His Temple shall appear:
Come and worship, Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

Congr: **Amen.**

HYMN 87 Joy to the World, the Lord is Come

¹Joy 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,...

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

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

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

CALENDAR

NEXT SUNDAY Worship at 9:30. No Sunday school or Bible class.
Sermon text: Colossians 3:12-17

Online Now! Mt. Zion Virtual Christmas Eve Mini-Program 2020:

Thank you to all those who submitted footage to participate in the virtual Christmas Eve mini-program of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (Detroit, MI). We are excited to share the final product with you. We encourage anyone to pass along this video to family and friends to help share the Christmas message of the newborn Savior. Just note that because the video is "unlisted", it will not appear in public search results if others try to search for it. Make sure to send them a link to the video! Here is a direct link to the video: https://youtu.be/X362Am_xEv4. You can also find the video by hovering your smartphone's camera over the following QR code:

