



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021, 10:30PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road • Salisbury, NC 28146
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Sara Barringer • Crucifer: Henry Barringer
Lector: Wayne Taylor
Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,
Gina Barringer, and Crystal Bost

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

You are invited to stand.

Hymn: “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”

45

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*After prayer and pastoral statement there will be
silence for reflection and self-examination, then...*

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Kyrie



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



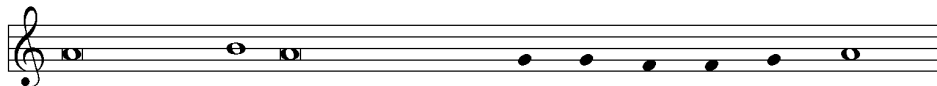
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

The Hymn of Praise



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



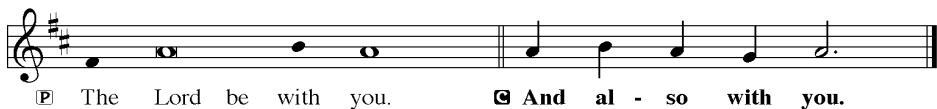
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



Let us pray. O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. ³You shall multiply the nation, you shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Psalm 96

¹Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, all | the whole earth.
²**Sing to the Lord and | bless his Name;**
proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.

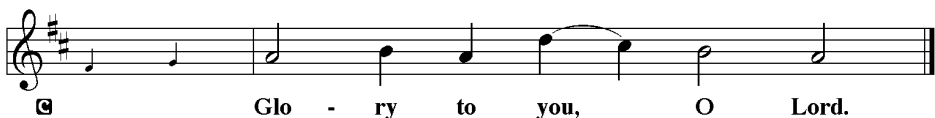
- ³Declare his glory a- | mong the nations
and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised;
he is more to be feared | than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but it is the Lord who | made the heavens.
- ⁶**Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!**
- ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor | due his name;
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.**
- ⁹Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is King!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”**
- ¹¹Let 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.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord | when he comes,
when he comes to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³He will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with his truth.

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.



The holy Gospel of St. Luke, the second chapter...



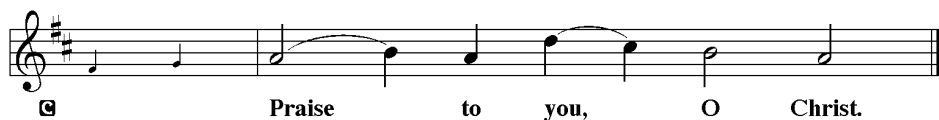
Gospel: Luke 2:1–20

¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

¹⁵When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.



Please be seated.

Sermon: “The Appearing of Glory”

Please stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Offering and Offertory

Please stand as you are able and sing:



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



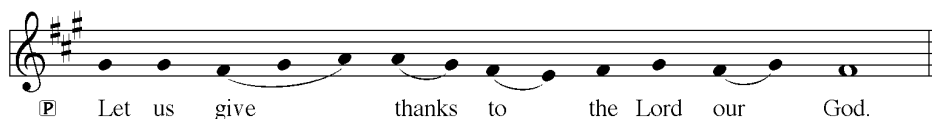
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

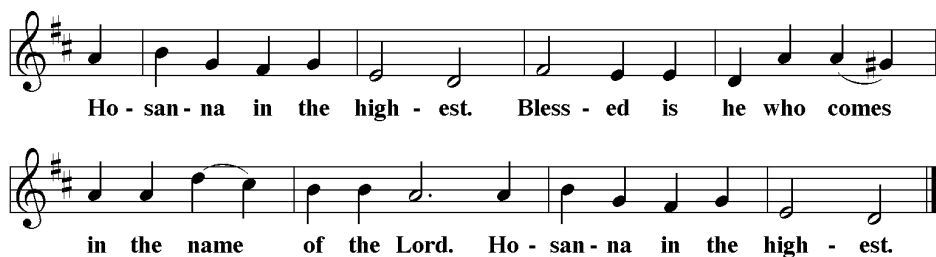


Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh, you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

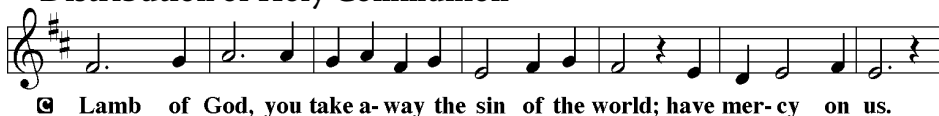
**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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**

Please be seated.

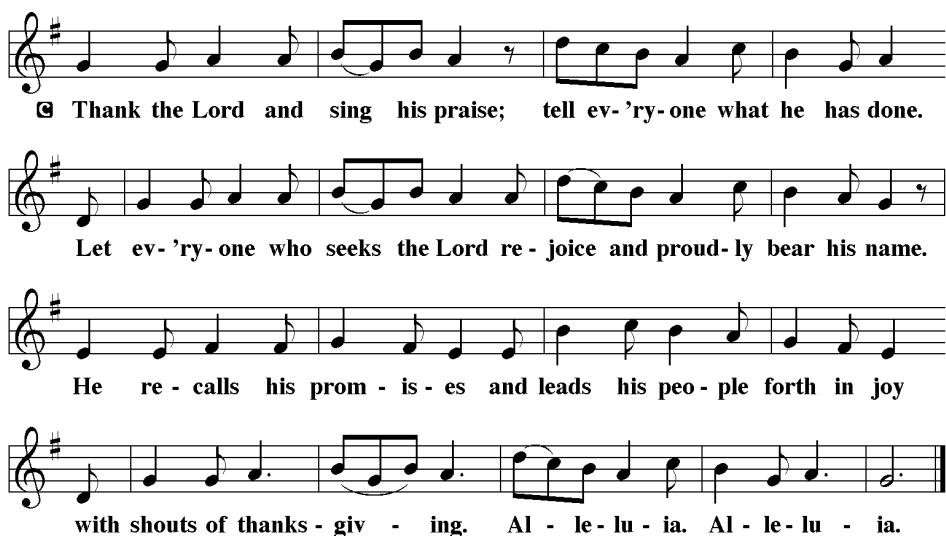
Distribution of Holy Communion





After the distribution, please stand.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the will of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Christ Candle

John 1:1–14 read by
Eric, Amy, Henry, and Sara Barringer

Prayers of the Church

For ears to hear and trust the Word of God,
let us pray to the Lord,

Christ the Lord, reveal your Word among us.

For caring hearts to shelter those for whom there is no room,
let us pray to the Lord,

Christ the Lord, show your love through us.

For the spread of the joyful news, that the Savior has come,
let us pray to the Lord,

Christ the Lord, bring your joy to the world.

For peace among the nations and in our daily lives,
let us pray to the Lord,

Christ the Lord, pour out your peace on earth.

For the promise of the Savior to shine into the darkness,
let us pray to the Lord,

Christ the Lord, pour out your peace on earth.

Trusting in your mercy and rejoicing in your birth, we lift our
prayers to you, the Light of the World. And in your name, O
Christ, we commend all for whom we pray.

Amen

Lighting of the Candles

Candle Song: “Peace, Peace”

Rick and Sylvia Powell
arr: Fred Bock

Congregation sings one verse of Silent Night at cue from Music Director:

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

The Benediction

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Postlude

You may take home your Christmas poinsettias
following this service.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

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Website: www.stpaulslutheran.church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

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Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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