



Service of Lessons and Carols

December 18, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Serbin, Texas

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*As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes –
Jesus, the light of the world.*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: ♪ "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

LSB 376

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

Stand

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

C Amen

P Let us Pray:

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the

loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven.

Sit

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 Lichtleins 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!**

Stand

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

G **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

(God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪ "LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD"

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a_year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22: 15-18

(God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: ♪ "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE"

THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 9: 2, 6-7

(The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: ♪ "CAROL FOR ADVENT"

FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 11: 1-4, 6-9

(The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪“LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING”

LSB 359

**Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen
ause einer Wurzel zart,
Als uns die Alten sungen:
von Jesse kam die Art,
Und hat ein Blumlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

FIFTH LESSON

ST. LUKE 1: 26-35, 38

(The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: ♪ "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361

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.

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!

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.

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!

SIXTH LESSON

ST. LUKE 2: 1-7

(St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪ "AWAY IN THE MANGER"

LSB 364

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON

ST. LUKE 2: 8-16

(The shepherds go to the manger.)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪ "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

LSB 368

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.

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

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

EIGHTH LESSON

ST. MATTHEW 2: 1-11

(The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ♪ "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

LSB 370

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!

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!

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!

NINTH LESSON

ST. JOHN 1: 1-14

(St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation)

P Here ends our reading

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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.

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.

Sit

OFFERING

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♪ "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781 V. 1-2

1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive

And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

LSB 384

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Δ Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Stand

P Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C Amen

(LIGHTING OF CANDLES DURING INTRODUCTION)

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.**

BLESSING

P May he who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

(EXTINGUISH CANDLES)

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ **"O DU FROHLICHE"**

**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!**

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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