



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
December 24, A. D.2023



# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 p.m.

*Pre-service Music*

*Ringing of the Bells*

*Welcome*

# Confession and Absolution

## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

### Invocation

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Unto us a Child is born.

**C** **Unto us a Son is given.**

**P** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**C** **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

**P**: Grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of the Father and of His Son come to earth, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

**C** **The peace of the Lord be with you, also.**

### Confession of Sins

**P** Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our faithful God.

**C** **Rescue us from hopelessness, self pity and our living in victimhood.**

**P** Bring us the Good News

**C** **move us by the Holy Spirit to repent daily of our sin and believe the Good News.**

**P** Rescue us from inner-turmoil and destructive attitudes, actions and neglect.

**C** **Forgive us when we listen to the wrong voices which lead us from You.**

**P** Shine your light:

**C** **Into our darkness and sadness,  
Into our selfishness and greed,  
Into our spiritual neglect and fears  
Into our doubts and worry,  
Into our sinful pride and hatred.**

**P** This Christmas Eve

**C** **Show us the Son of God in humility,  
In His deep love, in His sacrifice,  
In His becoming true man, in His taking our place and taking failures and sins so willingly.**

### **Absolution**

**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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray to the Lord

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

*sts. 1–2*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

**A** The Old Testament Reading for The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve is from the fifty-second chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

<sup>7</sup>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."

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

*sts. 3–4*

#### **Second Reading**

*Luke 1:26–38*

**A** The Second Reading is from the first chapter of St. Luke.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

*sts. 5–6*

#### **Christmas Gospel, Part 1**

*Luke 2:1–7 KJV*

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter read in 3 parts.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

### **379 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*sts. 1–3*

#### **Christmas Gospel, Part 2**

*Luke 2:8–14 KJV*

<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,

which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward men."

### **379 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*st. 4*

### **Christmas Gospel, Part 3**

*Luke 2:15–20 KJV*

<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them..

### **390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**

### **Message**

### **387 Joy to the World**

### **Gathering of Tithes & Offerings**

*Piano Solo: Kaylee Krieger*

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

**P** . . . Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

### **Solo: Candlelight Carol**

*Henry Sella and Tracy Gribbin*

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



### *The Words of Our Lord*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **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**

### **Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood**

*In the Sacrament of the Altar, we receive the real, genuine body and blood of Jesus Christ, which hung on the cross and flowed from his veins. Participation in The Sacrament limited to those who are active members in good standing in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or who have spoken personally to the pastor.*

*Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.*

*Those who desire to receive the sacrament are to be fully repentant of all sin in their lives. If you are unrepentant of any sin, we ask that you refrain from receiving the Sacrament and speak with the Pastor.*

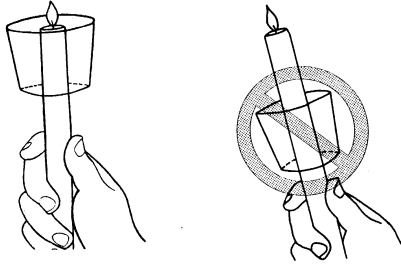


## 392 God Loves Me Dearly

## 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

### Movie: Out of the Darkness

### The Candlelight Ceremony



### Responsive Reading

- P** As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, seen in the Child lying in the manger at Bethlehem, on the face of the Savior suffering our death in the cross, and soon to be revealed again when He comes from His throne on high to be the Judge of all. He is our light here on earth and the eternal light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice on this night for the light of the world has come, the light who transforms us to shine with the brightness of His glory.
- C** **With unveiled faces we reflect the Lord's glory and are being transformed into His likeness, with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord.**
- P** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead they set the lamp on its stand, set up high, so that it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in the world, that people may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

## 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

### **Benediction**

**P** The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen. Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

### **370 What Child Is This**

#### **Acknowledgments**

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