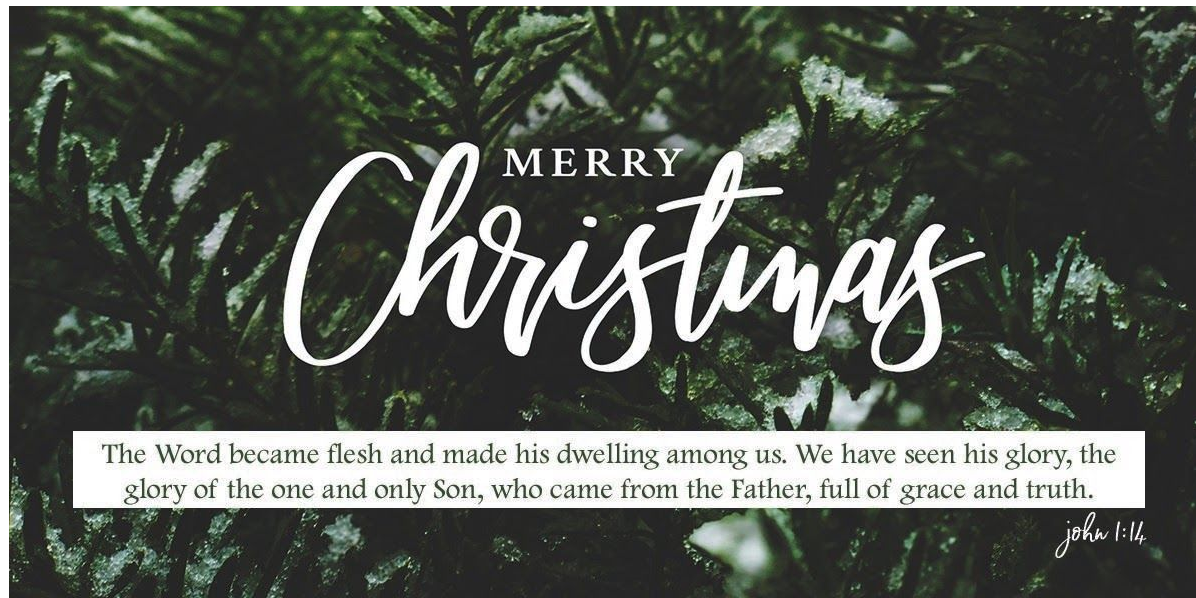


12/25/2020



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

401 16th Ave. N.

Bangor, WI 54614

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THE FESTIVAL OF THE NATIVITY

Welcome!

What better way to celebrate the birth of our Savior than to gather together to hear his Word and to offer our hymns of praise? May God bless your Christmas celebration! God has come to save us all! We pray that these familiar portions of Scripture will fan into flames the gift of faith that is in you by God's grace!

The Season of Christmas

For many, Christmas is about what is cute and trite and trivial. But there is nothing trite or trivial in what has happened today! The deepest lowliness into which Christ was born is but the mask for the greatest glory – the glory of him who came to be our Savior! In spirit we fall on our knees as did the shepherds to worship and adore the Child, the incarnate Son of God! We have come here this morning in search of Jesus, and we will find him revealed in sacred Scripture. With the saints and angels in glory we sing his praises for keeping his promise to come to sinners and to win for us a place in his eternal kingdom!

The Festival of the Nativity

Nativus is Latin for "birth." By the fourth century, the early Christian Church had set December 25th as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ. Along with Easter, it quickly became one of the major celebrations in the Church Year. For many years the Christian church celebrated the Lord's Supper on this day. This is seen in the word Christmas, which is simply short for "Christ's Mass."

ORDER OF SERVICE

Choir: "A Sequence of Christmas Carols"

OPENING HYMN: # 66 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

CHRISTMAS

66 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Musical score for "O Little Town of Bethlehem" in 4/4 time, featuring four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and lyrics.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
2 For Christ is born of Mar - - - y, And,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And

dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
No ear may hear his com - ing, But
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The

ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

all the years Are met in thee to - night.
God the King And peace to all the earth.
ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillip Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.
Tune: FOREST GREEN (86 446 76 446) English melody, adapt.

INVOCATION

[M]: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C]: And also with you.

CHRISTMAS LITANY

[M]: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. (Psalm 95:1)

[C]: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

[M]: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
to him who alone does great wonders,
who by his understanding made the heavens,
who spread out the earth upon the waters,
who made the great lights – the sun to govern the day,
the moon and stars to govern the night. (Psalm 136:3-9)

[C]: Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5)

[M]: But our iniquities have separated us from our God;
our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear.
We look for light, but all is darkness;
for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.
We look for deliverance, but it is far away. (Isaiah 59:2,9,11)

[C]: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins
testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we
acknowledge our iniquities. (Isaiah 59:12)

[M]: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,

*nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.* (Psalm 103:8-10)

[C]: ***From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*** (Psalm 113:3)

[M]: *“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will
raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign
wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days
Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the
name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.* (Jer 23:5,6)

[C]: ***Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make straight paths for him.*** (Matthew 3:3)

[M]: *Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
He is Christ the Lord.* (Luke 2:10,11)

[C]: ***Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and
forevermore. Alleluia!*** (Psalm 113:2)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin. Pour out your Holy Spirit into the world, so that the message of the babe born in Bethlehem might change the lives and destinies of many more people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the Lord returns to Zion.

⁹ Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the Lord is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The Lord lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav’n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of

new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,

God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!” Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris’n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God-head see, Hail th’ in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With th’ an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain

born in Beth - le - hem!”
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
give us sec - ond birth.

an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

1 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ² In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴ The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say:
You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?
And again:
I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.
⁶ And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:
Let all God’s angels worship him.
⁷ About the angels he says:
He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.
⁸ But about the Son he says:
God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
beyond your companions.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.
⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband’s will, but born of God.
¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[M]: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

[C]: Praise be to you, O Christ!

(pastor reads verses 2 & 4)

35 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,

Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and

Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be -
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1–4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

“

THE SERMON:

John 1:14 – The Word Became Flesh!

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

THE RESPONSE TO THE SERMON: #49 “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn”
CHRISTMAS

49 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn! A Sav - ior
un - to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry.
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels
from on high pro-claim And sing re-demp - tion's sto - ry.
My soul, Ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless him ev - er For
sal - va - tion. Give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion.

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937.
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

THE PRAYERS

[M]: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

[C]: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

[M]: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

[C]: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

[M]: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

[C]: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

[M]: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

[C]: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

[M]: Father, we bring these prayers before you this Christmas and always, confident that you will hear and answer them. For it was your only Son who taught 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.**

54 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

[M]: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

THE BLESSING

[M]: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.

[C]: Amen.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: MANGER SONG (12 12 10 10) Carl. F. Schalk, b. 1929. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
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THE CLOSING HYMN: # 38 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”
(Women Sing verse 1; Men sing verses 2 – 5; Women sing verses 6-7; All verses 8-9; Women vs 10;
Men vs 11; Women vs 12; All Rise to sing vs 13-15)

CHRISTMAS

38 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Women

Men

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good

2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,

3 "This is all the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your

4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by

5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad - dling

news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy

cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -

sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -

God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright

clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -

I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:

ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

ior be From all your sins to set you free.

and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share."

fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so! 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,

Then with the shepherds let us go And see what in the manger lies.

To see what God for us has done Who is this child, so young and fair?

In sending us his own dear Son. It is the Christchild lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,

Through whom the sinful world is blest! How weak you are, so poor and small,

You came to share my misery That you should choose to lay your head

That you might share your joy with me. Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff

And set with gold and jewels rare, You have but hay and straw so rough

It would be far too poor and small On which as King, so rich and great,

A cradle for the Lord of all. To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases you to see 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,

This simple truth revealed to me: Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled

That all the world's wealth, honor, might Within my heart, made clean and new,

Are weak and worthless in your sight. A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 My heart for very joy must leap; 15 Glory to God in highest heaven,

My lips no more can silence keep. Who unto us his Son has given!

I, too, must sing with joyful tongue While angels sing with pious mirth

That sweetest ancient cradle song: A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs neu gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

Announcements

Sunday: 12/27 Worship 8 and 10 am
No Bible Study or Sunday School
Thursday: 12/31 New Year’s Eve worship with communion 7 pm

2021 Church envelopes are now available downstairs. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you are able, please deliver to those that are unable to attend church services due to COVID concerns.

Usher Schedules are available in the narthex. Please pick up your copy.

St Paul’s Church/School is seeking to hire a **part-time Church/School Secretary**. 15-20 hours per week. For a complete job description, please contact Jeff Parr at treasurer@stpaulsbangor.com Application deadline is January 15, 2021.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27th! Parents of Sunday School children, please take note of this. Sunday School classes will resume on January 3 at 9:00 am at the school.

St. Paul’s Church Records Update: Please take a moment to complete the form in the narthex to update our church records with current names, address, emails and cell phone numbers. You may also do this electronically at www.stpaulsbangor.com and click on “Sign Up for our Newsletter”.

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