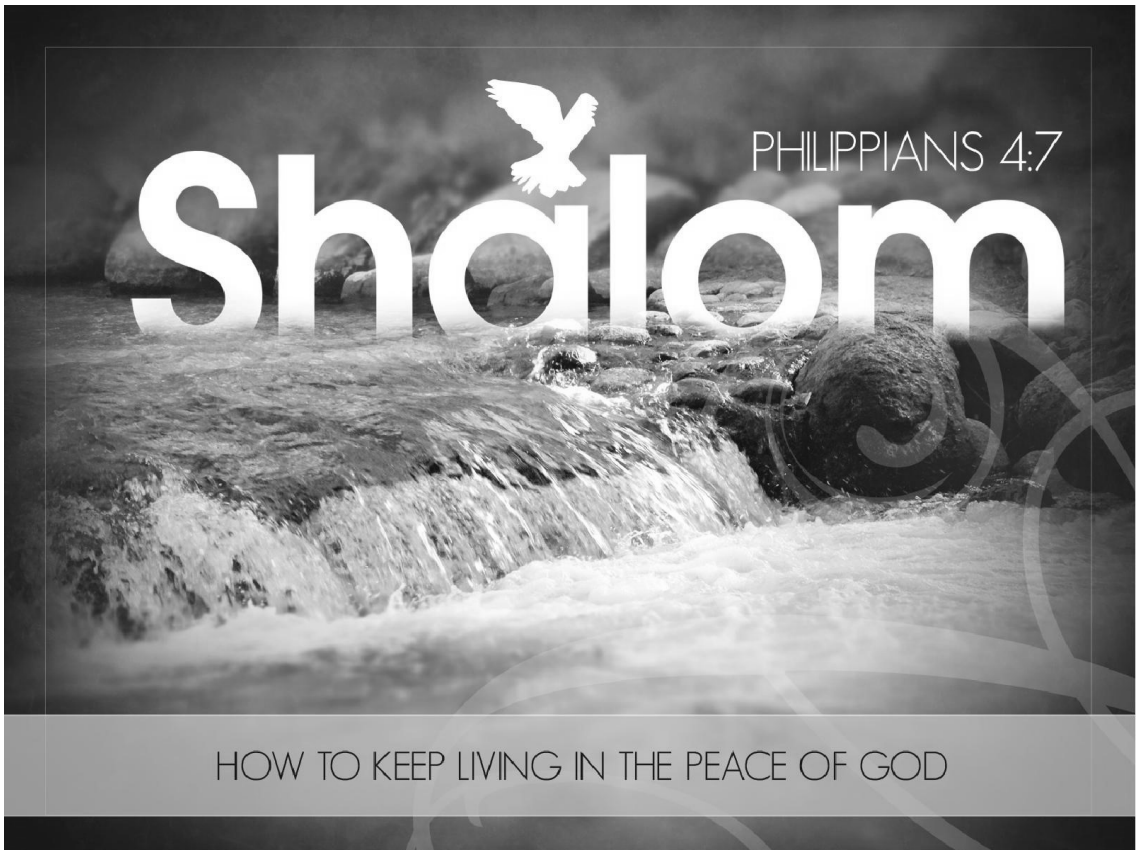


Christmas 2

Let's Not Miss the Point of Christmas



January 3, 2021

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

∞ Prayer before worship

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your might power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin, nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

verses: 1,3,4

37

Once Again My Heart Rejoices



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,
 3 Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man-kind's place
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!"
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.
 One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing Till the air
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.
 All you need I will sure - ly give you."

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I 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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. *(Pastor says prayer of the day)*

C: Amen.

THE WORD



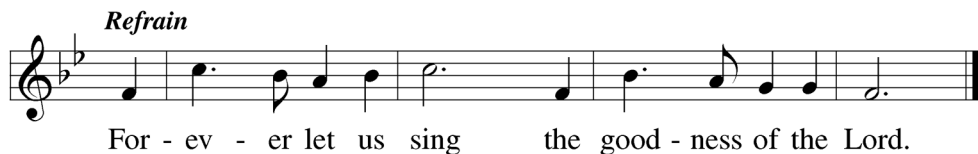
FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will come the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from ancient times, from eternity." ³Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵This one will be their peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 148 *(next page)*



*Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.*

*Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*

*Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars.*

Refrain

*Praise the LORD from the earth,
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
young men and maidens, old men and children.*

*Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.*

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Refrain



SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. ¹³And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me. ¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

STAND

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.
(Psalm 98:3b)

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GOSPEL

M: The Gospel according to John 7:40-43

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

⁴⁰After hearing his words, some of the people said, "This is truly the Prophet."

⁴¹Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he? ⁴²Doesn't the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David's descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?" ⁴³So the people were divided because of him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

34

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor
thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

THIS ONE WILL BE PEACE

I. Jesus is born to be a ruler

II. Jesus is born to be a shepherd



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

M/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

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen. (sung)

LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for Respecting our Communion Practice. The Bible teaches that partaking of the body and blood of Christ is a special assurance of forgiveness to penitent believers in Christ. It is also an expression of our oneness in the doctrines we teach and believe. Christ wants us to administer this blessed sacrament responsibly. We would ask that if you are not a communicant member of St. Paul's and desire the sacrament, please kindly speak with the pastor before the service.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

65

O Little Town of Bethlehem



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 -



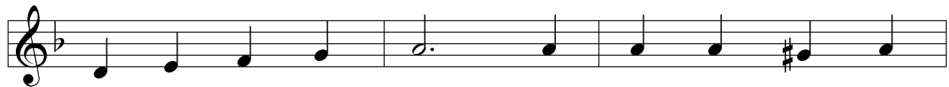
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



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!

THANKSGIVING

STAND

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

37

Once Again My Heart Rejoices



5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus 'calls
One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.
Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;
All you need I will sure - ly give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all,
Great and small,
Come with songs of gladness;
We shall live with him forever
There on high
In that joy
Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr. adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN (8 33 6 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.