

St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Bowhall Road, Painesville, Ohio



***“I was glad when they said to me
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’” Psalm 122:1***

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Should I Take Communion Tonight?

In the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (also known as Holy Communion), our Lord Jesus Christ gives us his own body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His living presence brings salvation and strength for the new life in Him. As Christians partake of this sacrament together, they make a solemn public confession of Christ and of unity in the truth of His Gospel. We therefore invite all who share the confession of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to participate in the blessings of the Lord's Supper and make this public confession with us. All who plan to come to the Lord's Table should examine themselves as the apostle Paul urges in 1 Corinthians 11. We are to see whether:

- we are sorry for our sins
- we believe in our Savior Jesus and in His words in the Sacrament
- we plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives

Our desire is not to exclude anyone from this sacrament, but to make a witness to our unity in the true faith. For that reason, we respectfully request that you would refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper today if you:

- are not sure what it means
- are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled with someone
- have not been instructed in the Lutheran faith
- hold to the teachings of another denomination

We make such a request because we are concerned for your well-being. The Bible teaches that “anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11: 27—29). In Christian love for our neighbor, we do not want anyone to participate in this sacrament to his or her spiritual harm. In the Lutheran Church, we are united in the belief that when Jesus says, “This is my body...This is my blood” (Matthew 26: 26, 28), He is speaking the truth. In faith we “recognize the body of the Lord.” To participate without doing so is spiritually damaging.

Holy Scripture also records Jesus saying, “If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6: 15). We are not allowed to help ourselves to God's forgiveness while planning to withhold it from our neighbor. This attitude reveals that one does not really believe that God has granted forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Further, the Bible informs us that “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11: 26). *While the Lord's Supper is a personal matter, it is not private.* Participation in the Lord's Supper at this altar is a public act. By participating, one says, “**I believe as you believe.**” In order to say that with integrity, it is necessary to know Lutheran teaching. Our pastor would be happy to assist you in gaining this knowledge through classes or in personal instruction in the Word of God.

Finally, denominational and doctrinal differences matter. The Bible teaches that the earliest Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2: 42). Communicating the message of Jesus Christ correctly was a top priority of the early Church. It is a sad reality that today there are serious divisions within the Christian Church over matters of doctrine. We cannot pretend to judge the hearts of individual Christians. Neither can we pretend that differences in denominational teaching are unimportant. These doctrinal differences have real-life consequences in faith and practice. Again, our desire is not to exclude anyone from this sacrament, but to make a witness to our unity in the true faith.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve 2020

PRESERVICE MUSIC:

RINGING OF THE BELLS:

ANTHEM: 7:30 "Christmas Processional" *Adult Choir*

WELCOME:

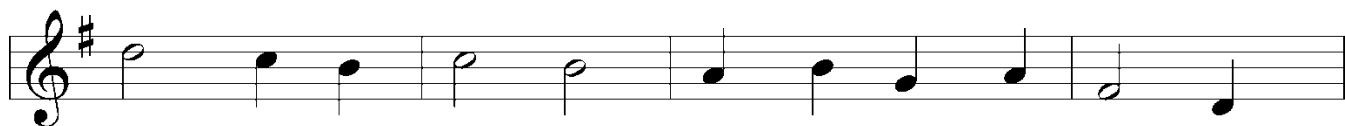
OPENING HYMN: 379 *LSB* "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!

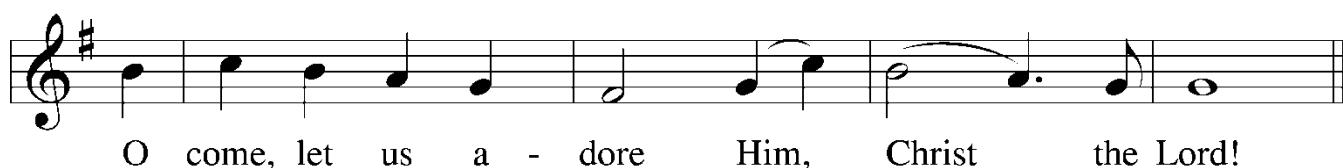


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



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Stand ↑

INVOCATION: *From Psalm 96*

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

C Amen.

P When all was still, and it was midnight,

C Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

C Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

P Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

C Tell of his salvation from day to day.

P Declare his glory among the nations,

C His marvelous works among all the peoples!

P For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

C He is to be feared above all gods.

P Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

C Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C Bring an offering, and come into his courts!

P Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

C Tremble before him, all the earth!

P Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

C Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

P Let the field exult, and everything in it!

C Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD

CONFESSION OF SINS:

P Merciful Father,

C We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We repent of our sins and ask Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to grant us forgiveness. Give us the will and the Holy Spirit's aid to amend our sinful lives, that we come to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Glory to God in the Highest!

PRAYER OF THE EVENING:

P Let us pray together

C 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 the Word made flesh as our Redeemer, we may

one day with sure confidence behold the Son of Righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit↓

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

R This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

ANTHEM: 7:30 “Love Has Come” *Adult Choir*

EPISTLE READING: *1 John 4:7-16*

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

R This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand ↑

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: *Luke 2:1-20 KJV*

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And 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: ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And 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. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I

bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Sit↓

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

SERMON HYMN: 380 *LSB* "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

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THE MESSAGE: *Pastor Sundbom*

HYMN: 365 *LSB* "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



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Stand ↑

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS:

Individual Petitions will be offered

Each petition concludes, **P:** Lord, in your mercy, **C:** Hear our prayer.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION:

P The Lord be with you

C And also 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:

☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of you glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

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 † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

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 † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ℙ The peace of the Lord be with you always

☩ Amen.

Sit↓

DISTRIBUTION:

Please remain seated. An Elder will bring you the host & wine

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: “O Holy Night” *John Doeing*

CANDLE LIGHTING: *[Lights will be turned off at this point]*

[Please be careful! Only tip an unlit candle toward a lit candle. Keep lit candles upright at all times]

P As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, the Savior suffering our death on the cross and soon to come from His throne on high as 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, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

C In the same way, may our lights shine before others, so that they may see these good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven.

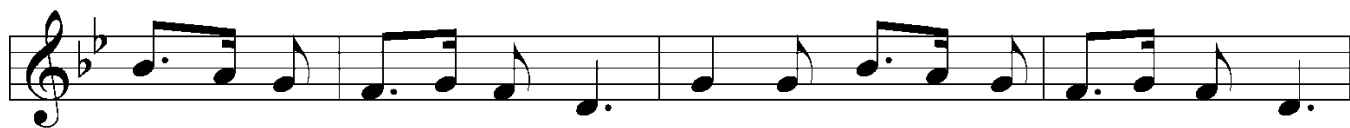
P Glory to God in the highest

C And peace to his people on earth.

HYMN: 363 *LSB* "Silent Night"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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Stand ↑

BENEDICTION: *Galatians 4:4-7*

P But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law,

C To redeem those who were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as sons and daughters.

P And because you are sons and daughters, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

C So we are no longer slaves, but sons and daughters, and if
sons and daughters, then heirs through God.

P The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to
you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you
peace.

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

[Extinguish candles. Lights will be turned on at this point]

CLOSING HYMN: 387 LSB "Joy To The World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



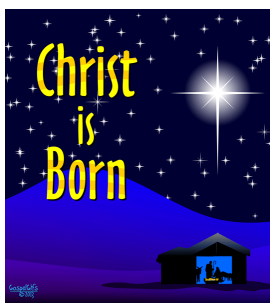
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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SILENT PRAYER



Those Who Serve Tonight:

Proclaimer: Pastor Paul Sundbom

Organist: Marlyss Sekki

Special Music: *Adult Choir & John Doeing*

Additional Music:

5:00: Jacob Chaffe, Piano; Matt Chaffe, Organ