

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021  
8:00 p.m.

Three lit candles are shown in a circular frame, set against a background of soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights in shades of blue and gold. The candles are white with yellow flames, and the frame around them is a light, glowing circle.

*Candlelight*  
SERVICE

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021  
8:00 p.m.**

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!**

*Pastorale 'Gesù Bambino'* - Pietro Yon

*The Holy Boy* – John Ireland

*Noel no. 10* – Louis-Claude Daquin

Choirmaster and Organist: Kantor Aaron Jansen



- 1 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.
  
- 3 **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.**
  
- 4 **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.**

*INVOCATION*

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

C: **Amen.**

*INTROIT*

from Psalm 98

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
**For he has done marvelous things!**

His right hand and his holy arm  
**have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;

**He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

*PRAYER*

Let us pray. O God,

**because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #379*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*(As the cross is brought forward, the Congregation turns to face the front)*

**1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: *Refrain***

**2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

***Refrain***

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain***

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dearly beloved of God, we come together on this night to hear of the great miracle whereby God became flesh and dwelt among us. Because He did this in order to free us from our sin, let us first consider our transgressions and confess these before God and one another.

*(Silent reflection and confession)*

God of our Salvation:

**we have sinned in our relationships with you and with one another. We have hurt others through our words and actions and have failed to respond to your life-giving Spirit. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus. Forgive us by grace, renew us in love and lead us with joy, that we may bear your peace to all the world. Amen.**

To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a minister of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #377 (Stand)*

*“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”*

- 1 **On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
    News of great joy, news of great  
mirth,  
    News of our merciful King’s birth.**
- 2 **Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
    When from our sin He set us free,  
    All for to gain our liberty?**
- 3 **When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
    Angels and men with joy may sing,  
    All for to see the newborn King.**
- 4 **All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
    “Glory to God and peace to men  
    Now and forevermore. Amen.”**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Good people all, this Christmastime, Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done, In sending his beloved son.  
With Mary holy we should pray To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem up-on that morn There was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide, The noble Virgin and her guide  
Were long time seeking up and down To find a lodging in the town.  
But mark how all things came to pass; From ev'ry door repell'd, alas!  
As long foretold, their refuge all Was but an humble ox's stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lamb and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear, Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
'Prepare and go', the angels said, 'To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find, this happy morn, A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'

With thankful heart and joyful mind, The shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angel had foretold, They did our Savior Christ behold,  
Within a manger he was laid, And by his side the virgin maid,  
Attending on the Lord of life, Who came on earth to end all strife.

*NEW TESTAMENT READING*

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem,<br>How still we see thee lie!<br>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br>The silent stars go by;<br>Yet in thy dark streets shineth<br>The everlasting light.<br>The hopes and fears of all the years<br>Are met in thee tonight.  | 3 How silently, how silently<br>The wondrous gift is giv'n!<br>So God imparts to human hearts<br>The blessings of His heav'n.<br>No ear may hear His coming;<br>But in this world of sin,<br>Where meek souls will receive Him, still<br>The dear Christ enters in. |
| 2 For Christ is born of Mary,<br>And, gathered all above<br>While mortals sleep, the angels keep<br>Their watch of wond'ring love.<br>O morning stars, together<br>Proclaim the holy birth,<br>And praises sing to God the king<br>And peace to all the earth! | 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,<br>Descend to us, we pray;<br>Cast out our sin, and enter in,<br>Be born in us today.<br>We hear the Christmas angels<br>The great glad tidings tell;<br>O come to us, abide with us,<br>Our Lord Immanuel!                            |

*CHRISTMAS GOSPEL*

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

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; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all

people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they had heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (KJV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*SERMON (Be seated)*

*HYMN OF THE DAY #389 (Stand) Sts. 1-4, 7 Let All Together Praise Our God*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Let all together praise our God<br/>Before His glorious throne;<br/>Today He opens heav'n again<br/>To give us His own Son,<br/>To give us His own Son.</b></p>          | <p><b>3 Within an earthborn form He hides<br/>His all-creating light;<br/>To serve us all He humbly cloaks<br/>The splendor of His might,<br/>The splendor of His might.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,<br/>Is born an infant small,<br/>And in a manger, poor and lone,<br/>Lies in a humble stall,<br/>Lies in a humble stall.</b></p> | <p><b>4 He undertakes a great exchange,<br/>Puts on our human frame,<br/>And in return gives us His realm,<br/>His glory, and His name,<br/>His glory, and His name.</b></p>     |
- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.**

## 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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**

## OFFERING

*Offerings can be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance following the service. Please place Fellowship Cards there too.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*The response to each petition will be:*

**P:** "Lord, in Your mercy,"

**C:** "**hear our prayer!**"



## COMMUNION LITURGY

### PREFACE *(Stand)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

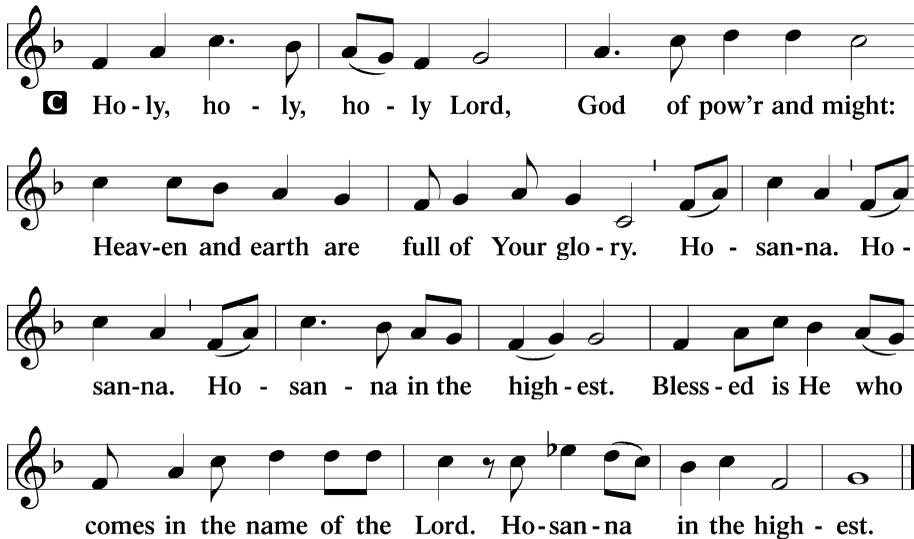
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*PROPER PREFACE*

*SANCTUS*



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  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

*LORD'S PRAYER*

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.**

AGNUS DEI

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #370

*What Child is This*

**1** 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!

**2** 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!

**3** 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!

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain***

***Refrain***

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the\_incarate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

**3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Refrain***

**BLESSING**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Stand)**

O God, as you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SHARING THE CANDLELIGHT**

*(The congregation’s candles are lighted from the Christ Candle. In passing the flame, **DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE.** The candles remain burning until after the benediction.)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/>All is calm, all is bright<br/>Round yon virgin mother and child.<br/>Holy Infant, so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace.</p>       | <p><b>2 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/>Shepherds quake at the sight;<br/>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!<br/>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br/>Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> |
| <p><b>3 Silent night, holy night!</b><br/>Son of God, love's pure light<br/>Radiant beams from Thy holy face<br/>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.</p> |   |

BLESSING (Extinguish candles following the Blessing)

SENDING HYMN #387

Joy to the World

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!</b><br/>Let earth receive her King;<br/>Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room<br/>And heav'n and nature sing,<br/>And heav'n and nature sing,<br/>And heav'n, and heav'n and nature<br/>sing.</p>      | <p><b>3 No more let sins and sorrows grow</b><br/>Nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>He comes to make His blessings flow<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as the curse is found,<br/>Far as, far as the curse is found.</p> |
| <p><b>2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!</b><br/>Let men their songs employ,<br/>While fields and floods, rocks, hills,<br/>and plains<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat the sounding joy,<br/>Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p><b>4 He rules the world with truth and<br/>grace</b><br/>And makes the nations prove<br/>The glories of His righteousness<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders of His love,<br/>And wonders, wonders of His love.</p> |

*DISMISSAL*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*POSTLUDE*

*Joy to the World*

Settings: 1. Wilbur Held 2. Hugo Gehrke

**THOSE SERVING IN OUR MIDST:**

Greeter:

Reader: Lynn Jacquez

Communion Assistant: Dede Dixon

Violin: Shaw-hwa "Jenny" Yang

## Worship Notes

Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Paul's! In worship Christ is present among His gathered people and the Holy Spirit is poured out through Word and Sacrament.

If you have a need or concern that you would like us to lift up in prayer, you may fill out a yellow **Prayer Request Card** and give it to the greeter or pastor. **Restrooms** can be found both downstairs and near the parking lot entrance. Parents can take their children to the **Cry Room** as needed, but we love to have them with us in worship. Before you leave, we ask that you fill out a **Fellowship Card** and place it in the offering box at the sanctuary entrance.

In **the Lord's Supper**, Jesus gives us his true body and blood. This meal forgives our sins and strengthens our faith. The Supper is for baptized Christians who have been taught the faith, examined themselves and share with us in confession. If you are not communing, you may still come forward for a blessing (bow your head or cross your arms). If you're not sure whether you should commune, please speak first to one of our pastors.

We pray that God's love and care be evident to you in our gathering, and that He gladden your heart and give peace to you this day!

### Acknowledgements

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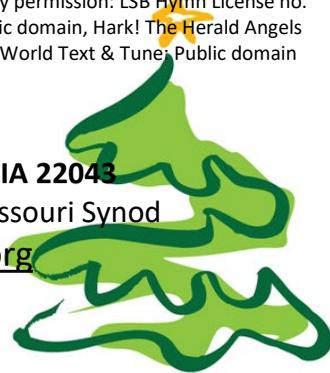
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## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

7426 IDYLWOOD ROAD, FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Web site: [www.stpaulsfallchurch.org](http://www.stpaulsfallchurch.org)



# Merry Christmas