



Joy
TO THE World

Christmas Day
2021

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Merry Christmas!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Joy to the World | 353

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

**4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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 the 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 sins. *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." *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. *Mark 1:3*

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 forever and ever. Alleluia! *Psalms 113:2*

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High

Sung by St. Paul's Adult Choir

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee, why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing. Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

*Since sinners can't look at God's full glory, he hides himself:
from Moses in a rocky cleft and from us in Christ's flesh.*

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have

mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified | 628 vv. 1,2,5

In Jesus, the Lord makes his salvation known that all may rejoice and sing.

- 1 **When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!**
- 2 **How oft, in making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!**
- 5 **Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise,
let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
and may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:31-32

Since the Father was willing to give us his only Son in the flesh, he will graciously give us all things.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-18

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us
so that we may know God's glory, grace, and truth.*

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 all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines 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 a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but

the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Of the Father's Love Begotten* | 358 vv. 1-3

- 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.
- 2 **Oh, that birth forever blessed**
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 **This is he whom seers and sages**
Sang of old 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.

SERMON

John 1

Christmas Is the Story of God

His position * His persistence * His presence

Our offerings of thanks to the Lord will be brought forward during the following song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten | 358 vv. 4,5

- 4 Let the 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.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

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: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

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.

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.

Be seated.

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!
- 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Thro' thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee!
Draw me unto thee!
- 3 Now through his Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till he opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise him there!
May we praise him there!
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground,
Where the angels singing
With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Please stand.

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

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.

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story.
My soul, Extol
God's great favor; Bless him ever
For salvation.
Give him praise and adoration.**

Be seated.

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SERVING WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ACCOMPANIST: Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Mary Athorp, Rev. Adam Bode, Thomas Cameron, Jill Grzonka, Greg & Zach Johnson, Nikki Leahy, Abby Phelps, Nick & Tanya Schmidt, Jim Van Alstine, and Sue Vant Hul

USHERS: Eric Specht, Peyton Specht, Mike Austreng, Doug Mattek.