

THE SAVIOR HAS COME

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S



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Opening Hymn

Sing We Now of Christmas

Children:

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here!
Listen to our praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Congregation:

**Shepherds were abiding, watching flocks by night.
Suddenly the heavens shone a glorious light.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

Congregation:

**Angels brought good tidings: Peace, goodwill to men,
Jesus Christ the Savior, born in Bethlehem.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!**

Choir:

Wise men brought their treasures, coming from afar,
seeking him to worship, guided by a star.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Children & Choir:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we Noel, Noel!

THE PROPHETS SAW THE SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Pastor: This morning we have all come to see the Savior. But why do we need a Savior? The Bible, God's Word, says in the first chapter of Genesis that when God created the world, it was perfect.

Congregation: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."
(*Genesis 1:31*)

Grades 5-8: But not long after God created the first people, Adam and Eve, they sinned against God. In his holiness, he could not tolerate them in their sinful state. The prophet Isaiah wrote,

Congregation: "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags." (*Isaiah 64:6*)

Grades 5-8: From the very first sin, God's perfect creation was spoiled, and man could no longer please God. Paul told the Romans,

Congregation: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(*Romans 3:23*)

Grades 5-8: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the consequence for their sin was death. In Romans chapter 6, we hear,

Congregation: "The wages of sin is death." (*Romans 6:23*)

Grades 5-8: But God loved his creation. Shortly after the first humans sinned, God gave them a promise. He told them,

Congregation: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (*Genesis 3:15*)

Pastor: This was the first prophecy of the Savior. God promised to send a Messiah who would crush the devil and save men and women from the punishment for their sins. The people longed for the day they would see the face of their Savior.

Anthem

An Invitation for Advent

Sung by Grades 5-8

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord, Jesus. Come to us, Emmanuel, come and set us free. We lift our longing hearts to you. Come and bring us peace. Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord, Jesus, come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord, Jesus. Come to us, Emmanuel. Come and bring us your light. From darkness we have called to you, praying in the night. Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord, Jesus, come.

Caleb Walleser: Later in the Old Testament, God spoke through the prophets about the Christ who was to come. These men saw their Savior from a distance. Many prophets, such as Micah and Isaiah, trusted in God. But their words were not their own. The apostle Peter explained, "Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

Faith Marohn: Prophets of old foresaw and foretold the advent of Christ, our Savior. God spoke through their words to all those who heard the message of Christ, our King. The Lord spoke through Micah of the town of the Savior's birth: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)

Caleb Walleser: The Lord spoke through Isaiah of the way the Christ would be born:

8:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Congregation: “The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

(Isaiah 7:14)

10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

PreK & Kindergarten: “The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

(Isaiah 7:14)

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

NOTE: PreK & Kindergarten will sing verses 1 & 2 in the 10:30 service.

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
where meek souls will Receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.**

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

THE SAVIOR WAS BORN

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Veda Ostermann: Matthew, the gospel writer, tells us more about the events that led up to the Savior's birth. "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

Grades 3-4: "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'"

Grades 1-2: "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means, 'God with us.'"

Grades 3-4: "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."
(Matthew 1:18-25)

Anthem

Grace of God with Us

Sung by Grades 1-4

Duet (Lydia Bramstedt & Reese Kolosovsky): Wonderful and wise in counsel. Forever, mighty God. Precious Father. Everlasting. Blessed Prince of Peace.

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest. Jesus, our Savior, the grace of God with us.

The kings of earth rest on your shoulders. You rule on David's throne. Your kingdom here is now established, Christ our Lord of lords. *Refrain*

Born that we might know forgiveness. Born that we should live. With joy and hope, and expectation, our King will come again! *Refrain*

Lexi Schuenemann: Luke records the events of Jesus' birth in greater detail. "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register."

Quinn Meyer: "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child."

Hannah Krell: "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (*Luke 2:1-7*)

Anthem

Peace, Peace

Led by All Children & St. Paul's Adult Choir

Choir (*Sung Twice*): Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all. This is a time for joy. This is a time for love. Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Children & Congregation:

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Devotion

Rev. Aaron Mueller

SHEPHERDS CAME TO SEE THE SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Paschal Curia: Luke records that some shepherds nearby also saw their Savior that night. Here is how it happened. "There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

Brooke Heilman: "But the angel said to them, '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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

Blake Valukas: "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:8-14)

Hymn

A Festive Christmas Flourish

**The first Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

**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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Then let us all, with one accord,
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
that hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

Choir:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born. Christ is born!

Aurora Bode: "When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." (*Luke 2:15-18*)

Natalie Royer: The shepherds spread the news about the Savior. God wants us to tell others about him as well. In Matthew, Jesus gave us the Great Commission:

Justin Denhof: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (*Matthew 28:19*)

Anthem

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sung by St. Paul's Adult Choir

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this, the Christ, who was long foretold. Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of Dawn, now our eyes behold. God, Most High, in a manger laid. Lift your voices and now proclaim. "Great and glorious, Love has come to us." Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Soloist (Ann Marohn): Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne. Helpless, he lay, the Invincible. Maker of Mary, now Mary's son. Oh, what wisdom to save us all. Shepherds, sages, before him fall. Grace and majesty, what humility. Come on bended knee, adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel. Joy and peace for the weary heart. Lift up your heads, for your King has come. Sing, for the Light overwhelms the dark. Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring. God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus.

Gloria!



THE WISE MEN CAME TO SEE THE SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Kendall Holzwart: Jesus' disciple Matthew tells us about some wise men, or Magi, who traveled from the East seeking the newborn King of the Jews. God showed them in a special way where the Savior was. Before the Magi found the Savior, they stopped in Jerusalem and asked: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." (*Matthew 2:2*)

Ruth Davis: When this news got to Herod, the king, he was afraid that this King had come to take his throne. But Jesus is a heavenly King, not an earthly one. During his trial before Pilate, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (*John 18:36*)

Braden Sixel: But Herod didn't understand this. After he asked his scholars where this King was to be born, he sent the wise men to Bethlehem and told them, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." (*Matthew 2:8*)

Angelo Ellison: But Herod secretly planned to find the child and kill him. Knowing this, God warned the Magi in a dream. After they had seen the Savior, they went back to their country by a different way.

Anthem

A Christmas Alleluia

Sung by All Children & St. Paul's Adult Choir

Soloist: Karl Leverenz

Shadow Play Coordinator: Ann Marohn

Shadow Play Choreographers: Ann Marohn, Courtney Greenwald, Lisa Olson, and Molly Meitner

Shadow Play Dancers: Nevaeh Langdon, Alli Leverenz, Caitlin Marohn, Elise Mueller, Chelseigh Olson, and Mazey Ostermann

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ the Savior of the world, he has come. Alleluia, alleluia to the highest Name of all, Alleluia.

The heavens roar, the angels sing. All glory to our God and King. Oh night divine, forevermore Alleluia.

WE SHARE THE NEWS OF THE SAVIOR

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Marc Winter Jr.: Our Savior Jesus came for one purpose: to save us! God wants us to live with him forever, so he sent his Son to live a perfect life and to die on the cross to take away our sins.

Abbi Leverenz: Jesus conquered death. He rose again three days after he died to show us that we will also rise from the dead. This is God's plan for our salvation. Inspired by God, Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians, "When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (*Galatians 4:4,5*)

Rachel Mueller: This baby born on Christmas Day came to earth to suffer and die on the cross so that we could have eternal life with him. May we gladly share this good news with others so that those who do not believe that the Savior has come will not be condemned, but come to a saving faith in Jesus.

Congregation: Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

Stand

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Children:

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.

Congregation:

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Choir:

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.

Congregation:

**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.**

Be seated

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SERVING WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ACCOMPANIST: Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Thomas Cameron, Jill & Stan Grzonka, Greg Johnson, Nikki Leahy, Nathan Meitner, Nick & Tanya Schmidt, Brad Tinker, Jim Van Alstine, and Sue Vant Hul

DECORATION: Mary & Jim Eick

Thank you to our Audio/Visual team and the many volunteers who put in so much time to make this Worship service fitting for our great Savior.

To God be all the glory!

The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra

in concert

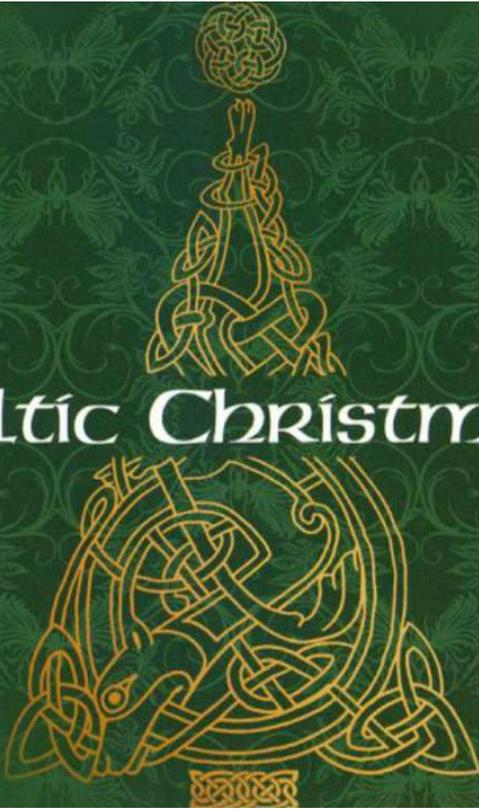
Tuesday, Dec. 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

441 Millersville Ave.

Howards Grove, WI

Celtic Christmas



Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 & 4:00 in the Gym
Candlelight Service with Musicians

6:30 in the Church
Simple Lessons and Carols Service



A graphic for Christmas Day Worship. It features a dark red background with a light green rounded rectangle in the center. Inside the green rectangle, there are green pine branches and red berries. The text is centered within a white rounded rectangle inside the green one.

Christmas Day
Worship

Join us @ 9:00 a.m.!

A graphic for New Year's Eve Worship. It features a dark blue background with a decorative border on the left side consisting of blue and orange berries, pine needles, and a pine cone. The text is in a light orange color.

Join us for
New Year's Eve
Worship @ 6:30 p.m.