

The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020

9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
321 North 10th Street, Beatrice, NE 68310
402-228-1540

Rev. Daryn Bahn, Pastor
Rev. Timothy Brisbois, Visitation Pastor
www.stpaulbeatrice.org
stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran School & Child Care Center
930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310
402-223-3414

Mrs. Amy Duever, Principal Mrs. Karren Carpenter-Husa, Director
aduever@diodecom.net childcare@stpaulbeatrice.org

The Birthday of a King



“Glory to the newborn King!” The refrain of the familiar Christmas song invites us to proclaim that Christ is born in Bethlehem. Today we celebrate God coming into the history of our earth in person—in the person of a baby born in Bethlehem. “This is My beloved Son!” God proclaimed this years later when Jesus arrived at the Jordan River at the time of His Baptism. But already at the time

of His birth, Jesus’ special nature was established as God in the flesh—in our human flesh! We express our thankfulness and our joy at that blessed coming!

380 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.



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

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:2; Psalm 98:4, 6

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

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

C make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Confession and Absolution

P Let us go to our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake... Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk always in the paths of righteousness in our thinking, speaking, and acting; we have not loved You completely or our neighbors as

ourselves. We have failed to live as sisters and brothers of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this day. In Your great mercy, forgive and renew us that we may be servants of our eternal King 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 therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

L For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L 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.

C The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

L 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.

C Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! 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.

L For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Solo: "See amid the Winter's Snow"

Karen Bahn

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray... Almighty God,

C grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 2

C Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

C “Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”

P He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

C Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

P I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

C You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

P Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

C Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

- P** Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.
- C** **Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. 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.**

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹²like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C **and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon: Left alone for Christmas

John 1:1-18

370 What Child Is This

hymn for meditation

- 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!

Text: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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

P Let us pray for God's people around the world and all who call out to Him in their various needs.

With thankful hearts, Lord, we bring to You our prayers this day. We recall Your acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless You for the grace shown to all people through the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May His abiding presence bless our hearts and our homes in this holy season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for our world and for all people on this planet. Enable us to be witnesses to the kingship of Jesus, the Savior. Cause the truth of the Gospel to be known around the world. Bless the labors of the missionaries and pastors of the Church as they bring that message everywhere. Be with those whose work keeps them from their families this day and support them with Your measureless love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for this congregation and all who worship here. Bless its leaders and all of the people with a full measure of joy that we may echo the songs of the angels in our communities and bring glory to our newborn King. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special needs, including the sick and the shut-in, those who grieve, those who feel alone in this season, and all others known to each of us who at this time are in need of our petitions, [*including . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Lord, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us on earth who now rejoice in Your light eternal. Lead us to find inspiration and strength in their faithful witness and seek to serve You constantly all of our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as a King and yet as one who comes to serve and bring salvation. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone can bestow. Grant that with true thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace, where we receive His body and blood and through them the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son,

our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

387 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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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Thank You to all who contributed a Poinsettia

Doug & Christine Boone

Doug & Christine Boone

In memory of Martin H. Roebke, Sylvia K. Roebke, Martin J. E. Roebke,
Marvin L. Roebke, William Itzen, and Myrtle Itzen, given by Robert
& Myra Denton and Family, and Roger & Marjorie Itzen and Family

In memory of Lisa G. Itzen, given by Lapis A. Itzen and the Itzen Family

God's blessings to everyone this Christmas season, given by Marilyn
Keilig

In thankfulness for her health, given by Carlyn Koenig

Ken & Carla Loemker

Floice Meyer

In honor of Grandpa Harold and Uncle Rick, given by David & Lisa
Oltmans and Family

The Quilters

The Quilters

Arvid & Althea Wiest

Given in appreciation for all the hard work everyone put in to prepare
for the Bahn Family's arrival to St. Paul's

Poinsettias may be taken home after the 9:00am Christmas Day Service.

Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS