



Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

The Birth of Jesus
Children's Program

"In Nomine Iesu"

Welcome to
SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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***WELCOME** – to all who are worshiping in God's house this morning. We especially welcome all our guests. May your Advent worship strengthen your faith in Christ, our Lord, and may it enhance your celebration of our Lord's birth. We pray you know Christ's love through us and will return again soon.*

The St. Paul's Children's choir wishes you a very merry Christmas season, and thanks you for joining us today as we share our adaptation of "**The Birth of Jesus**," written by Felicia Mollohan. This year, we will be recounting the Christmas story through scripture and the familiar hymns, "**Away in a Manger**," "**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**," and "**What Child is This?**" We hope this simple play will transport you back in time to that most holy night in Bethlehem, and remind you of the promise of Immanuel, God with us. Thank you again to those who have been involved in preparing the children for this day, and God's blessings to you all!

All are asked to fill out the **registration card** found in your pew rack. The ushers will gather the cards from both members and guests following worship.

Come away this Wednesday evening for our second **Advent Midweek Worship** at 6:30.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells

The Order of Worship

Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service Setting One

P Restore us, O God;
C **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
C **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth.**

P You brought a vine out of Egypt;
C **it took deep root and filled the land.**

P Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

All **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.**

P Restore us, O God;
C **let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us
pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of
the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to
the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.)

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of
Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be
enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the
same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(be seated)

Chime Choir “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Setting by Cathy Moglebust

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;

the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,

“Here is your God!” ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Common Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel (*please stand*)

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

All 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.

(be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB #344

Children's Program

"The Birth of Jesus"

by Felicia Mollohan

Presentation of the Offering and Musical Offering

Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs:

P All these things and whatever else You know that we
need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died
and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**All 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.**

Benediction (*please stand*)

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.**

Sending Hymn *“Hark the Glad Sound”* LSB #349

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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