

Welcome to
SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

"In Nomine Iesu"

915 - 27th Street, Marion, Iowa 52302
Website: mystpauls.org
e-mail: office@stpaulsmarioniowa.org
Phone: (319)377-4687

AS WE GATHER: God became man. It's hard to fully consider the magnitude of that statement. And yet, this is what we celebrate this morning. We gather together to confess and rejoice in the incarnation of our Lord and the unending blessings we receive from it. God in human flesh brings all of God's blessings to humans. Chief among them is His grace. John speaks of the incarnation, saying that, *"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"* (John 1:14).

Today we rejoice that God came not only to give us a baby in a manger, but a Savior who rescues us from sin and death in His very own body and blood. Luther once said, "Word and sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay Himself." Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus then, so we are told where to find Him today. The greatest gift we can give to others is the loving witness to the truth of His word.

For scriptural reasons, we practice closed communion. Visitors who are members of a sister Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod Congregation are invited to partake of the sacrament. Please speak with a Pastor if you would like to commune for the first time.

We are happy that you chose to worship with us this morning, and we hope you will worship with us again soon. **Please take a moment to fill out the registration card found in your pew rack.**

Prelude *"In dulci jubilo"* N. Dello Joio
Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship ~ *Ringling of the Bell*

The Order of Worship

Lutheran Service Book – page 184 –
Divine Service Setting Three with Communion

Entrance Hymn *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”* LSB #384

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
 and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart
 and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching
 Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us
 forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word
and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

All **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all
my sins and iniquities with which I have ever
offended You and justly deserved Your temporal
and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry
for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray
You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of
the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of
Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious
and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a
 called and ordained servant 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.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

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

- P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C **and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**
- P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
C **His right hand and his holy arm**
have worked salvation for him.
- P The Lord has made known his salvation;
C **he has revealed his righteousness**
in the sight of the nations.
- P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation**
of our God.
- P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- 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 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C **and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**
- P and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

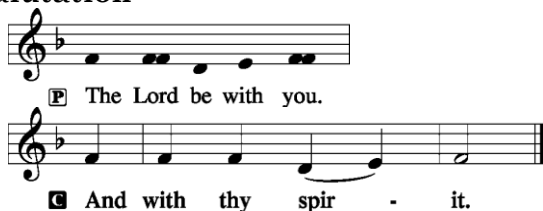
Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

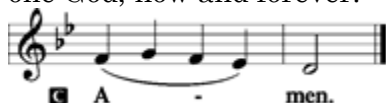
P Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation



Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



(be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How 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.” ⁸ The 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. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The 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.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but 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. ³ He 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, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For 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”?

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

⁷ Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

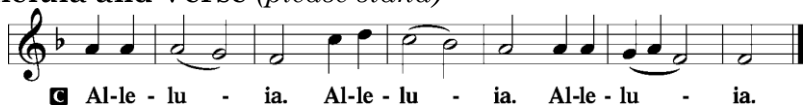
⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like 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.**

Alleluia and Verse (*please stand*)



Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter
C **Glory be to Thee, 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 gives light to 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.'") ¹⁶For 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; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(be seated)

Hymn of the Day *“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”* LSB #372

Sermon

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Presentation of the Offering & Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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 Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we
pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (*please stand*)



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

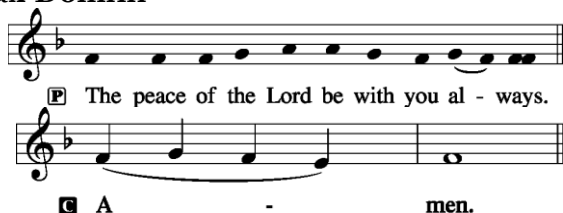
All Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

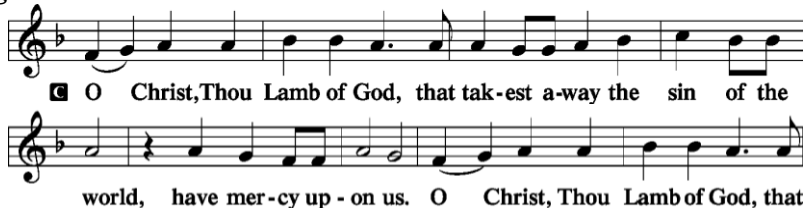
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

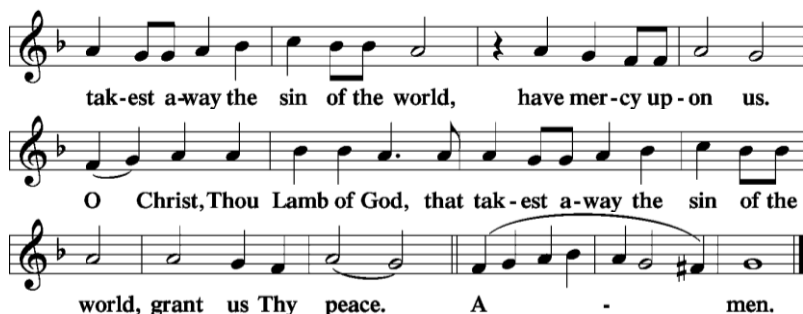
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



Agnus Dei





Distribution *(be seated)*

(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.)

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. Gluten free wafers are available from a communion assistant.)

Distribution Hymns

"What Child Is This"	LSB #370
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"	LSB #367
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	LSB #393

Nunc Dimittis *(please stand)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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 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.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
 The Lord make His face shine upon thee
 and be gracious unto thee.
 The Lord lift His countenance upon thee
 and (+) give thee peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB #358 vs 1-3, 13-15

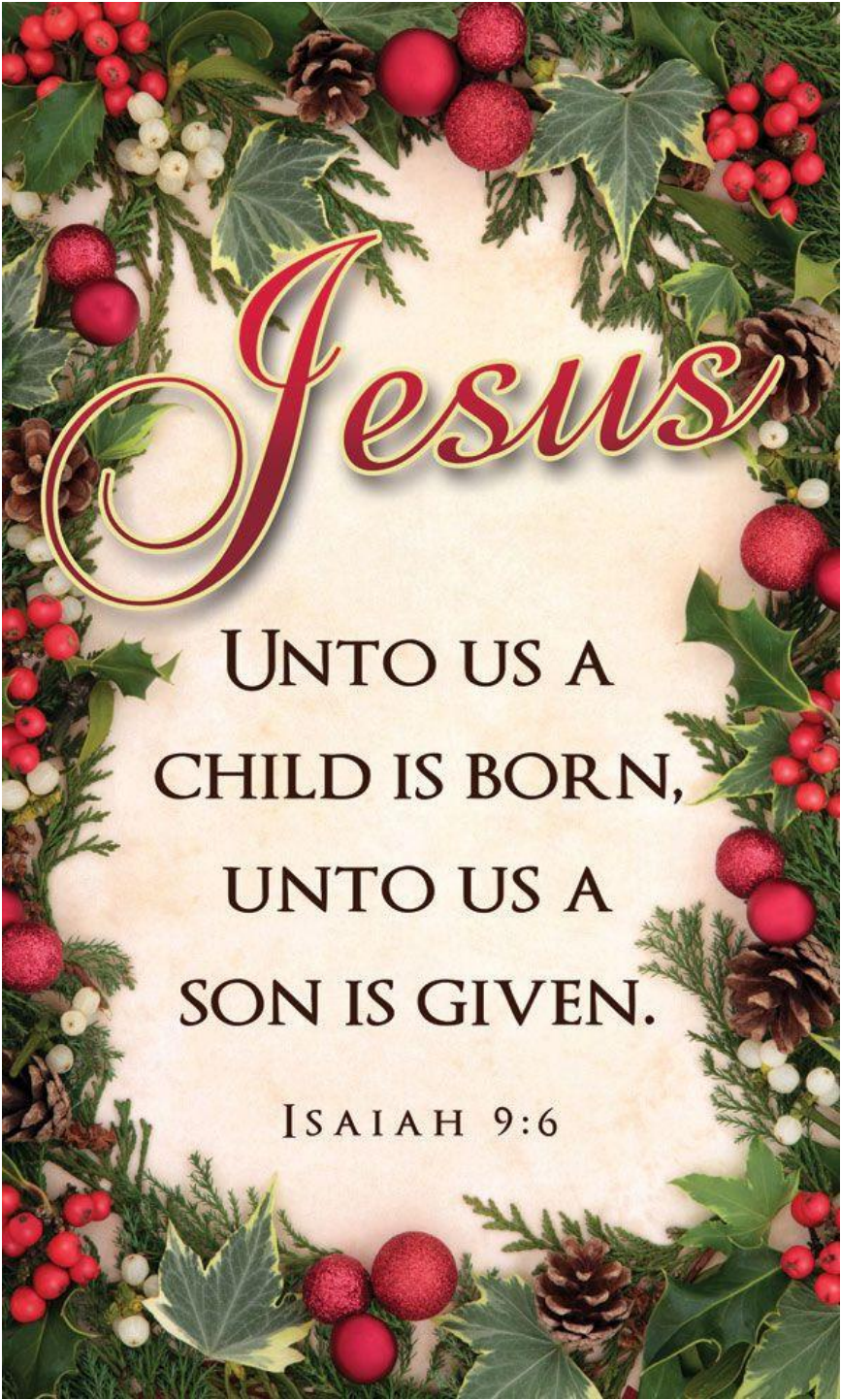
Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude “*In Heaven Above*” Aaron David Miller

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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Jesus

UNTO US A
CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A
SON IS GIVEN.

ISAIAH 9:6