



Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2019

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

INTRODUCTION: In winter’s deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus’ birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (9:00) Christmas Carol Medley Traditional

BELL CHOIR (11:00) “The Herald Angels Sing” J. Raney

Please stand if you are able.

GATHERING HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #283

GREETING

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, child born of Mary,
be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

A Reading from Isaiah

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

(Isaiah 9:2-7)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Titus

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High” #289 vs. 1 & 3

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

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Go Tell It on the Mountain” #290

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

THE NICENE CREED (In Unison)

We believe in one God,

 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

 he came down from heaven;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
 and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

 he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven

 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world
celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Fill your church with a zeal for
sharing your love and grace with all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at
your coming. Grant us wisdom to care for your creation in ways that benefit all
your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all. Bring healing
to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that
rule wisely and honorably for the sake of all your people. Hear us, O God. **Your
mercy is great.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come to us as a baby. Protect all who are vulnerable or
need: those without homes or caregivers, those who grieve, all who are hungry, and
all who seek healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially...*). Hear us, O God. **Your
mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we praise you for gathering us tonight to worship in holy splendor.
Direct our worship, fellowship, and service, so that our lives and Christian witness
may be pleasing to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. Thank you for revealing your
faithfulness and love to us through the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O
God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

At the birth of Christ, the angels sang a song of peace and good will.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Solo (9:00)

“O Holy Night”

Tiffany Bizup

Anthem (11:00)

*“How Quietly”

J. Raney

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child Is This?”

#296 vs. 1

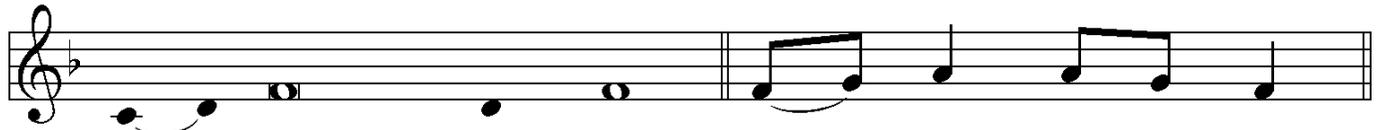
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

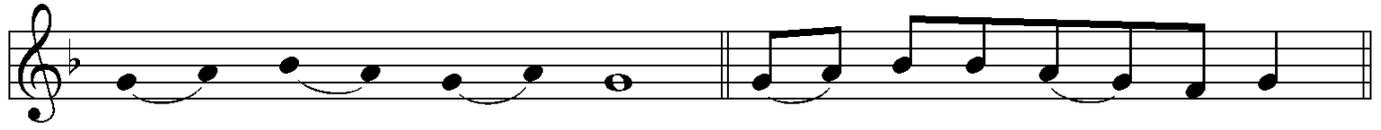
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
in the beginning, your word brought life into the whole world.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection, we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through Him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your Holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for ages is revealed to us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your Savior and King!

Please be seated.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament in their pews. Those who do not desire to receive the Sacrament may come forward to receive a blessing.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Communion Hymns | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | #270 |
| | “The First Noel” | #300 |
| | “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” | #282 |

Please stand if you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CAROL

“Joy to the World”

#267

- 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 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.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow 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.

Please extinguish your candle and place it in the basket in the narthex.

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

K. Varner

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar poinsettias are presented in memory of the H. Y. Hartman Family.

The Christmas Eve bulletins are presented in memory of our parents, Raymond and Josephine Rohrer and Arthur and Edna Emerich, by Joanne and James Emerich.

**How Quietly* was presented in loving memory of H. Clair and Jane Zimmerman by Steve and Robin Zimmerman. (2017)

SERVING THIS EVENING (9:00 PM):

LECTOR: Connie Teter; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Robin Zimmerman;

USHERS: Hope and Samantha Clarke; GREETER: Scott & Tina Butler

SERVING THIS EVENING (11:00 PM)

LECTOR: Jason Swick; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Greg Sklar;

USHERS: Jeff Ritschel & Kurt Schenck;

GREETERS: Sue Schenck & Chris Long

POINSETTIAS (Please take your plant(s) with you after 11:00 PM worship.)

Poinsettias presented in honor of:

Pastor Mike's first Christmas with us, Kurt, and Julianne by Sue Schenck (delivery fee)

Our daughter Heather Lynn by Barry and Dana Jenkins (marble)

Bob and Ruth Rarick, Kyle, Charlene, and Norman Knauss, and Clint and Cole Rarick by Gail and Jeff Rarick (3 jingle bell)

My children by Kay Weidensaul (1 white)

Jack Riegel, Beth Post, and Lori Roshannon by Sis Riegel (1 red, 1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Our children, Jeffry and Amanda, Joel and Cristi, and Lindsay and Kevin,

and our grandchildren, Jayda, Lily, and Jackson, by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

The Rev. Debra Koch Abbots and Katherine Koch Knight by Gary Koch (1 white, 1 marble)

Mary Steinert by Chris Long (1 red)

Our children, Noel, Jody and Dutch, and our grandchildren, Kelsey, Harrison, and Charleigh, by Darin and Crystal Brensinger (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Pastor Diefenderfer by Danielle Richards (1 jingle bell)

My Family, Deborah, Bill and Cindy, Sandra and Scott, and Fern and Rodney,

and my Grandchildren, Tyler, Travis, and Troy Moyer, Jeremy Houser,

and Samantha and Bryan Ludwig, and my Great Grandchildren, Kelti, Braylon,

and Natalie Ludwig by Fern Moyer (2 red)

Fern Moyer, Jeremy and Rebecca, Debbie, Bill and Cindy, and Sandy and Scott

by Rodney and Fern Houser (2 marble and 1 jingle bell)

James P. Withers by Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers (1 red)

Ashley Post and Charles Schoffstall, Tyler Post, Sydney and Ami Riegel, Madyson Riegel, Nikki,

Anastasia, and Scarlet Herring by Jeff and Beth Post (5 marble)

Laura and Nicholas Ingraham, Jordan Post, Elizabeth Riegel, Carl and Barbara Post

Lori and Jenny Roshannon and Jeff, Carla, Hannah, and Zachary Fisher and Keith Van Nosedall

by Jeff and Beth Post (six jingle bell)

Jack Riegel and Abbey, and Joe and Deb Post by Jeff and Beth Post (2 red)

Alyssa and Alexander Sklar by Cindy and Greg Sklar (1 red, 1 white)

Tom's brothers, Bobby and Jimmy Wehr, and sister, Evelyn Plechavy,

by Tom and Gwen Wehr (1 jingle bell)

Poinsettias presented in memory of:

Loved ones by The Jenkins family (1 jingle bell)

Tim and Jan Gerberich and Janet Bensinger by Gail and Jeff Rarick (1 red, 1 white)

My parents, Harvey and Gerturde Beury, by Kay Weidensaul (1 white)

Lawrence Heintzelman by Carl Heintzelman (1 white, 2 marble, 2 jingle bell)

Mike Riegel by Sis Riegel (1 white)

Our parents, Florence and Dick Teets and Elizabeth and Gene Ritschel

by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel (1 white)

Loved ones by Lester and Connie Teter (1 red)

Mavis M. Koch and Irene Walter by Gary Koch (2 red)

Pauline Berger and Elmer Berger by Daniel, Joan, and Erika Guers (1 red, 1 pink, and a donation)

Pauline Berger and Elmer Berger by Lindsay and Alex Findura (1 marble and 1 jingle bell)

My parents, Lester and Betty Potts, by Leslie Guldin (1 marble)

My dear aunt, Ethel Ellex, by Leslie Guldin (1 jingle bell)

Loved ones by Rosalie Wingle (1 red)

Mr. and Mrs. Evan H. Davis and Mildred Goetz by Evan and Pat Davis (2 red)

Family members by Jean Premich (2 jingle bell)

Edward and Elsie Foulk, Sr. and Bill, Gloria, and Billy Biever by Cheryle and Ed Foulk, Jr.

(1 red, 1 pink, 1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Herbert Steinert and Carl Long by Chris Long (1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Carl and Shirley Brensinger by Darin and Crystal Brensinger (1 red)

My father, Robert Shaud, and my brother, Eric Shaud, by Crystal Brensinger (1 white, 1 pink)

Francis and Margaret Piacine by Danielle Richards (1 red)

Charles W. Moyer by Rodney and Fern Houser (1 jingle bell)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Pitts, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Withers by

Wayne and Ruth Ann Withers (1 pink, 1 jingle bell)

John S. Riegel, Jr. by Jeff and Beth Post (1 white)

Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rohrer and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Emerich,

by Joanne and Jim Emerich (1 red)

Kermit and Cathlene Krammes and H. Claire and Jane Zimmerman

by Robin and Steve Zimmerman (2 marble)

Our Parents, Mike and Mary Petresky and John and Ann Host, and Brother, John Host III,

by Pastor Mike, Sue, and Mikey Petresky (3 red)

Our Parents, Lois and Boris Sklar and Juleen and Larry Herman, by Cindy and Greg Sklar

(1 marble, 1 jingle bell)

Jack Taylor by Skip Taylor (2 jingle bell)