



December 25, 2020 – 10:00am

## **WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP**

Jesus has invited you here today.

Here, Jesus stills quaking hearts. Here, Jesus forgives the unspeakable. Here, Jesus comforts the lonely. Here, Jesus makes joy complete!

Here you will meet others Jesus has grabbed with His grace.

We invite you to sign a guest card in the pew rack, noting your attendance and place it in the offering plate as the offering is taken or you may sign the attendance book in the Fellowship Hall.

## **OUR MISSION**

Gaining and nurturing disciples for Christ through the Word and Sacrament, and proclaiming to all people traditional Biblical truths as a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**To Our Guests:** We're glad you're here! Lutherans believe this sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Here he gives himself and all that he promises. Receiving the sacrament is also an expression of full unity in faith with those with whom you are communing. Based on this theological principle, if you are a member of a congregation that shares the confession of faith of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to commune with us today. We continue to pray for the day when all divisions in the body of Christ will cease. Anyone who wishes may receive a pastoral blessing by kneeling at the altar rail with your arms folded across your chest. If you desire to commune at St. Paul and would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor.

**To Those Communing Today:** God's Word instructs those who come to the Lord's Table to first examine themselves. You may use the meditation material in this bulletin to prepare yourself to receive the Sacrament.

Special communion procedures have been developed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the instructions of the pastor and ushers. Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the pastor or an usher before the service.

# DIVINE SERVICE

## *Setting One*

### PRELUDE

### HYMN OF INVOCATION                    “O Savior of Our Fallen Race”

*Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.*

1    *O Savior of our fallen race,  
O Brightness of the Father’s face,  
O Son who shared the Father’s might  
Before the world knew day or night,  
Alleluia!*

6    *And we are jubilant today,  
For You have washed our guilt away.  
O hear the glad new song we sing  
On this, the birthday of our King!  
Alleluia!*

△ 7    *O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,  
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.  
Alleluia!*

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways 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  $\text{✠}$  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;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

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

**P** 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.

**P** 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!

**C** 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;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

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

### KYRIE

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** 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.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria in Excelsis”

*Glorry to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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.

**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.

## AFTER THE READING

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 2

**A** Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

**C** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,

- A** “Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”
- C** **He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.**
- A** Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- C** **“As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”**
- A** I will tell of the decree:  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- C** **Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.**
- A** You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
- C** **Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.**
- A** Serve the LORD with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.
- C** **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath  
is quickly kindled.  
Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.**

## EPISTLE READING

**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.”

## AFTER THE READING

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**John 1:14**

**C** **Alleluia 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.  
Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-14

**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.

## AFTER THE READING

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Joy to the World"

*Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.*

- 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 men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

## HYMN

“Joy to the World”

*Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.*

- 3 *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.*
- 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.*

## NICENE CREED

**C** 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

*(All may bow:*

*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.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## OFFERING & ATTENDANCE CARDS

- An offering plate will be placed near the door as you exit
- To give online, go to [stpauldbq.com/give](http://stpauldbq.com/give)
- You can also mail in or drop off your envelope in the mail slot next to the office entrance of the building

## OFFERTORY

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P** Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, our income, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also 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.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You...one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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

“The Peace of the Lord”

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### FOR MEDITATION DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

**Luke 2**

*The angel preached that this child is our Saviour, in whom we should have as much consolation and joy as in the greatest treasure. Wherever Christ is, all the angels and God Himself cannot fail to be looking on. And yet this treasure is not only placed in the lap of Christ's Mother, but is placed in my lap and in your lap, as he says: "He is to be your own. You shall profit from Him and all that He has in Heaven and on earth will be yours." Whoever hears this and takes no joy from it deserved to be thrust down nine cubits below the earth by a thunderbolt.*

– Martin Luther

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**                      “Nunc Dimittis”

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** We give thanks ... 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.

**CLOSING HYMN**                      “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.*

- ref    *Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!*
- 1    *While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. Refrain.*
- 2    *The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain.*

**THE USHERS WILL DISMISS EACH PEW STARTING FROM  
THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY**

**POSTLUDE**



We would like to thank everyone who purchased poinsettia's to help make the church look beautiful for the Christmas Season.

John & Marlene Weber  
Richard & Charlotte Tigges  
Arlene Elliott  
Angela Osterkamp  
A.J. Osterkamp  
Sue Hass  
Cindy Hass  
Bill & Sandi Heller  
Eric & Diane Schulz  
Becky Clark