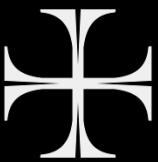


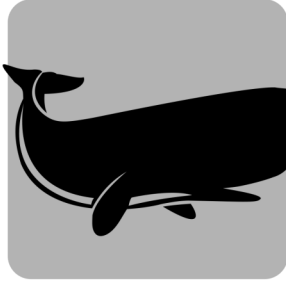
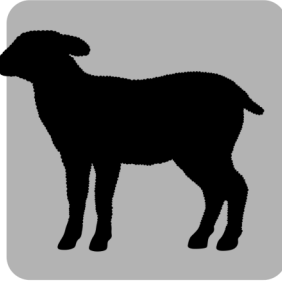
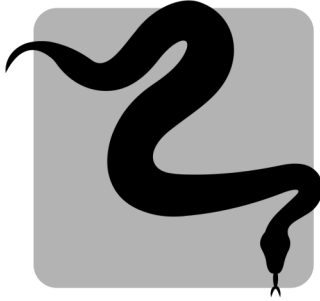


St. Paul Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2022



Illustrations



of

Immanuel



ST. PAUL CLINTONVILLE

31 North Park St
Clintonville, WI 54929
www.stpaulclintonville.com

Pastor Caleb Rothfuss
Cell: (989) 220-8833
Church Office: (715) 460-3143

Welcome Guests...

We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main entrance doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent's room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent's room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion so that we can talk about what we believe about it first.

This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. wels.net



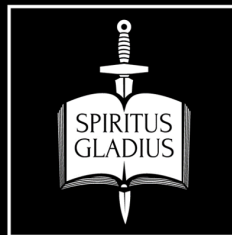
Our Focus Today...

A SAVIOR BORN TO DWELL AMONG US

For centuries on Christmas Day the Church has read chapter one of St. John's Gospel. There, in just a few simple words, Scripture describes the indescribable: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The word God had spoken in the Garden, promising to send a Savior who was part of mankind, came true. God himself became flesh and blood—to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us.

The Greek word translated "made his dwelling" can also be translated "pitched his tent." That word describes a temporary dwelling place. God came into our broken world to dwell for a time, so that one day we might go to God's perfect home and dwell for all eternity.

Unlike those Christmas Eve shepherds, we cannot see Christ with our eyes. Yet still he dwells among us. For he is the Word made flesh. As we listen to the Word today, we truly are hearing the voice of Christ. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we partake of his true body and blood. In Word and sacrament, still today, our Savior dwells among us, feeding our faith, preparing us for our true home.



Vision

Our passion for the Gospel will make us the chosen place of worship in our community.

Mission

We will share the life giving and inerrant Word of God as written in the Bible.

Core Values

We will proclaim the law and the gospel so that all may have eternal life.

Thank you for joining our celebration this evening!
The children from Sunday School have been working hard on this service for weeks!

Hymn 327 stanzas 1,2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



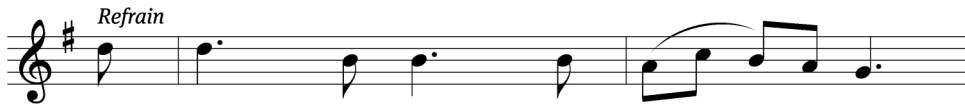
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Introduction *Welcome*

Have you ever heard the phrase “A picture paints a thousand words”? Sometimes things that are difficult to explain verbally can be better understood when depicted visually. Jesus often spoke using parables. These stories share spiritual truths using pictures of familiar things in our world: a mustard seed, a rebellious child, a wedding banquet, a lost coin. In the same way, God gives illustrations throughout Scripture that point to this central message of his Holy Word: He promised and sent us a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Let’s gaze with wonder at some of those illustrations and renew our hearts and joy through our Savior Jesus.



From Problem to Promise

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,
“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:8-15

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him

John 3:14-17

Hymn 574

The Tree of Life



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a
 lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
 sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,
 tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for
 fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and
 world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played with - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.



From Sacrifice to Substitute

“Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said,
“but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

Abraham answered,
“God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son”

Genesis 22:6-8

“[Jesus] committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed”

1 Peter 2:22-24

Hymn 355

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— a great ex -
 6 For us he o - pens wide the door of par - a -



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
 form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
 hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me to
 dise to - day. The an - gel guards the gate no more; to



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.
 glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.
 help me in my need, to help me in my need?
 God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.



From Lamb to Loving Sacrifice

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt . . . “Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. . . . Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. . . . On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt”

Exodus 12:1,3,6,7,12,13

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,

“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29

Anthem *He Shall Reign Forevermore*

Please join in with singing the hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* at the end of the anthem.

Hymn 346 stanzas 1,3

Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.





From Branches to Bethlehem

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-3).

Hymn 360 stanzas 1, 2, 4

Behold, a Branch is Growing



Choir 1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
Women 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
Men 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

The prophet Micah points to the Messiah who would be born in Bethlehem, the town of King David. Please join in reading this prophecy from Micah chapter 5 verses 2 through 4 responsively:

Women: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
Men: out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
Women: Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
Men: and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.
Children: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
All: And they will live securely,
for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Hymn 333

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!



From Majesty to Manger

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Reading *Luke 2*

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hymn 350

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 - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - 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 th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' 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.



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



From Jonah to Eternal Joy

As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth

Matthew 12:40

Paul writes to the believers in Corinth to assure them that through the resurrection of Christ Jesus, they too will live eternally with him in heaven.

All: **Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Song by *Sunday School*

Immanuel

O can you see the pictures God paints throughout his Word?
We see them in the Scriptures; their echoes can be heard:
the shadows of the future, our God's eternal plan
for bringing us salvation—we sing his praise a-gain.

The Lord of lords, the King of kings,
the Holy One of whom we sing,
the Word made flesh, a helpless child,
the Son of God, so meek and mild—Immanuel.

Then climbing up a mountain a wooden cross he bears;
fulfills his Father's bidding, a sacrifice pre-pared—
not year-old lamb or firstfruit on altar made of stone,
his body and his lifeblood for all would now atone.

Then in that very moment all prophecy fulfilled,
our Savior crushed the serpent and all creation stilled.
They laid him in a tomb there, the lifeless Son of Man.
But death could never hold him—the Son would rise again!

Redeemed, our hearts now worship this infant Savior-King.
We kneel beside his cradle and hear the angels sing.
With thankfulness we serve him in ev'rything we do.
We lift our songs to heaven with joyful praises to . . .

Prayer *Christmas Eve*

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

Move us to sing with hearts of faith,

“Glory to God in the highest!”

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the † Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn 353

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



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.

