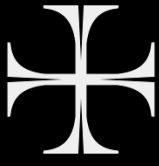


St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Festival of the Nativity — December 25, 2022





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



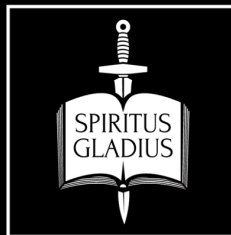
Our Focus Today...

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.

—Special Service—

Thank you for joining our celebration this morning!

Hymn 331 stanzas 1-5,8

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow pre - pared by
5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: the swad - dling
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, thro' whom the



news to ev - 'ry home; glad ti - dings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
God for all be - low, that in his king - dom,
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my



joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.
in - fant laid by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
mis - er - y, that you might share your joy with me.

Invocation *Call to Worship*

Pastor: In the name of the Father

Group: **whose glory is declared by the heavens,**
and of the Son
 who left Heaven's throne to rescue us,
and of the Holy Spirit
 who empowers us to share the Good News
 to the ends of the earth.
Amen.

Christmas Litany

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness,
 but the darkness has not understood it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
We have seen the glory of the Christ,
 the glory of the only Son of the Father,
 full of grace and truth.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In him was life,
 and that life was the light of men.

O Loving God,
 you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light.
Turn our thoughts toward Bethlehem and the Christ-child, born to save us.
May the words of Scripture we hear tonight remind us again
 that the old story is ever so new.
May the hymns and carols we sing today reveal to us again
 the mystery of his birth.
May all who have known that Light on earth
 come to the full measure of its joys in heaven.
Help us, O Lord, in our worship this morning.
Amen.

Hymn 354

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
 born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
 On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



Confession of Sins

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins.

Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Glory to God in the highest!

In love that astounds us, the eternal God sent his one and only Son to live among us, to obey as we could not, and to suffer what we deserved.

In Christ there is indeed peace on earth

In him God extends his good will to all people.

He was born to save us.

Because of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God himself says:

In Christ your sins are forgiven!

Glory to God in the highest! Amen.



Hymn 346

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.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading *Isaiah 52:7-10*

*The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us, laying bare his arm,
rolling up his sleeves and doing what was necessary to bring the
good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.*

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading *Psalm 98*

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.
The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
 burst into jubilant song with music;
 make music to the LORD with the harp,
 with the harp and the sound of singing,
 with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
 shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
 the world, and all who live in it.
 Let the rivers clap their hands,
 let the mountains sing together for joy;
 let them sing before the LORD,
 for he comes to judge the earth.
 He will judge the world in righteousness
 and the peoples with equity.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 98B

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.

Second Reading *Hebrews 1:1-9*

In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. In these latter days, God speaks to us through his Son who came to dwell among us.

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Galatians 4:4,5*

Alleluia.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to redeem those under the law.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading *John 1:1-14*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Confession of Faith *Apostles' Creed*

*The Apostles' Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles.
This creed was created to teach and unite Christians in the truth of God's Word.
The Apostles' Creed can be found on page 197 of the hymnal.*

Hymn 358 stanzas 1-4

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him



he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
and ex - tol our God and King.



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Sermon Hebrews 1:1-9



5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Prayer of the Church *for Christmas Day*

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. [Keep in your care...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] *We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.*

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song by choir Sing We Now of Christmas/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Offering

Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod.



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, _ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

The Lord's Prayer

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Your kingdom come.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.
Give us today our daily bread.

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.
Lead us not into temptation.

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.
But deliver us from evil.

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

Amen.



Hymn 315

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from
6 And, when you shall come a - gain as a glo - rious



kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;
doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,
king to reign, I with joy may see your face,



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.
safe - ly kept through life and death,
free - ly ran - somed by your grace.

Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Blessing *the Benediction*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn 347

Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

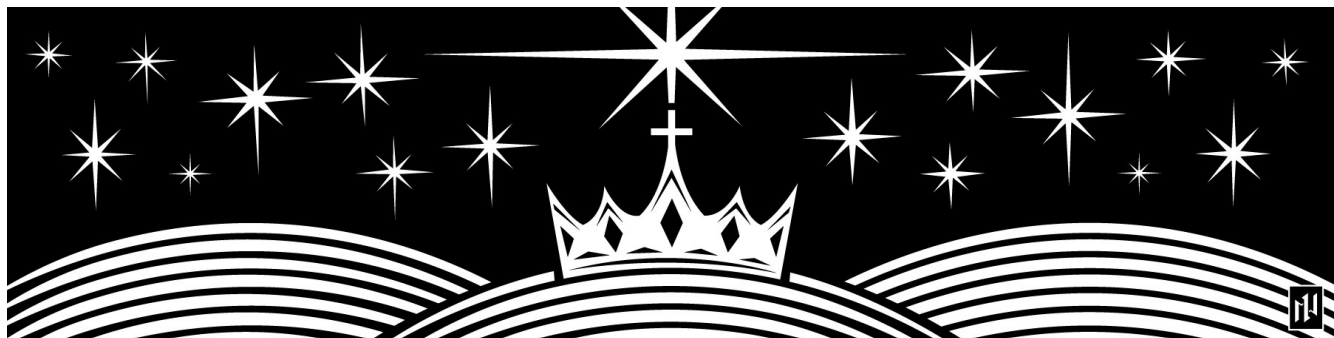
Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.





The Christ Candle

The last candle is the large, white candle. We wait until Christmas Day to light this candle that symbolizes and celebrates Christ birth. The word “advent” means coming and Christ has come! God tabernacled himself among us!