

*Offering Prayer

L: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

A: 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.

SENDING

*Blessing

L: Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

A: Amen

***SENDING HYMN: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270, vs. 1&3)**

*DISMISSAL

L: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news!

A: Thanks be to God!

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Worship Leader: John Mehlberg

Worship Steward: Marty Heller

Greeters: Carl & Gail Thorson

Musician: Sandy Erickson

Readers: Karen Hoegger, Dawn Boitnott, Becky Edinger & Judy Sykes

Ushers: Dawn Boitnott & Pat Lund

Communion Prep: None

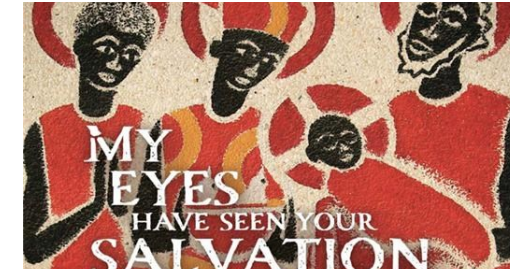
Comm. Asst: None

Counters: Carrie Lueker & Marvin Miller

Hospitality: Tami & Greg Putnam & Julie Mehlberg

SS Teacher: Emma Rapp

Livestream: Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church

December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve

Introduction: At the turn of the year we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world's time begins and ends in God. We watch and keep vigil for the coming of God's justice.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Rosemary & Wayne Sutton in honor of Destiny's birthday!

* *indicates to stand*

"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" (ELW 283, vs. 1&4)

A CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION (Responsive reading)

L: O Lord, our God, how great and awesome you are. You made us in your image, and to save us you made yourself in our image, so that we became one with you.

A: Shout, O universe! Sing, heaven and earth! The Lord of creation has taken flesh, so that we might never be parted from him. Sing all the songs of eternity, for he is Jesus the Christ!

L: Flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood, Jesus has called us into greater union with God.

A: Bless the Lord! Shout hosannas to the heavens! Jesus, God's Son, is born!

L: Christ is the New Testament written in our hearts. He is the Almighty God.

A: Alleluia! Praise the Lord! Sing to Christ, our brother. He is the bond of blood with our Father.

L: Sing praise, all you who hear! Jesus, the Messiah, is the song of God heard in our hearts.

A: Hosanna! Loud hosannas we shout and sing! In Jesus Christ our God has merged himself with us.

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

A: The song of our souls praises God--the Father, the Son, and the spirit-- joined now to creation forever! Amen

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7 (Isaiah foretells the birth of a child of peace)

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257, vs. 1&2)

Second Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a (*Micah tells of a promised ruler from Bethlehem*)

2 *But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Hymn: O little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, vs 1&4)

Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 36 (*The Angel Gabriel visits Mary*)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.*' 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?*' 35The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born* will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn: What Child Is This (ELW 296, vs 1)

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 (*The Birth of Jesus*)

2In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“God is with Us” by Casting Crowns (sing with video)

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 (*The Shepherds and the Angels*)

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they

were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,* the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,* praising God and saying, 14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!*' 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn: What Child is This (ELW 296, vs. 2)

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:21-36 (*Jesus Presented in the Temple*)

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;* this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.* 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon* came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon* took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant* in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon* blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' 36 There was also a prophet, Anna* the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage.

“Emmanuel” by Michael Card (video)

Seventh Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11 (*The Visit of the Magi*)

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men* from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,* and have come to pay him homage.' 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah* was to be born. 5They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd* my people Israel." ' 7 Then Herod secretly called for

the wise men* and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,* until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped,* they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn: What Child is This (ELW 296, vs. 3)

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:13-18 (*The Escape to Egypt*)

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' 14Then Joseph* got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,* he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.* 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Hymn: Away in a Manger (ELW 277, vs. 1&3)

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 (*The Word Became Flesh*)

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life,* and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.* 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own,* and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,* full of grace and truth.

“Peace on Earth” by Casting Crown (video)

OFFERING

Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at stpaulpontiac.org