

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
A Carol Communion Service
December 24, 2018



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Andrew Watts, Organist

408 S. Davidson Street | Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251 Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Lord be with you all.

And with you, his servant.

Lift your hearts unto the Lord.

Lift we hearts most fervent.

Let us give our thanks to God. God made man confessing

Good and right it is to do, and it has God's blessing.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

God, we light the four candles of Advent.

We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light. We recall the times we have struggled but said yes. We know times when God has filled us and our world with blessing. We remember times of great joy when, although it may have begun in struggle, God filled us with hope, love, or peace.

Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Luke 2:1-14

Glory to You, O Lord!

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In 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.

⁸In 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!"

HOMILY: *Christmas Eve Message From The Innkeeper*

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(tune: Good King Wenceslas)

Blessing honor glory power unto God almighty Praise to you eternal Lord, Father of all mercy Long ago you made us Lord, made us in your image. But through sin we broke the form, of our Lord within us.

Still your love came shining through from heaven you did send us, Christ to take on human flesh, here to live among us. He did suffered for our sin, died a death most cruel. Now he lives and reigns in heaven, as its brightest jewel.

We the church on earth do sing, with the hosts of heaven. Glory to the one who died, for he has arisen. The baby born at Bethlehem is the King of heaven. And we praise your blessed name with the song unending.

THE SONG OF PRAISE

(tune: Angels We Have Heard on High)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glory fills the earth. all your power fills the heavens. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Blessed is the King who came, bringing love and light divine. Blessed is the King comes, in the bread and in the wine. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(tune: Good Christian Friends Rejoice)

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus to the Father prayed: Bless this bread we are to eat, let it bring forgiveness sweet. My body dwells there in, My body dwells there in.

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Next he took the blessed cup, praying as he raised it up: In the wine forever more is the way to Heavens door. My blood poured out for you, My blood poured out for you.

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Eat his body drink his blood, share the peace that's from above. Angels sing of heaven's bliss, as we share this Eucharist. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.

LORD'S PRAYER

(tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

God our Father, God of fame, Hallowed be your saving name; Everywhere your kingdom come, far away from here at home; May we to your will comply as the angels do on high; Grant that we, our sin's forgiv'n, follow in the way of heav'n Grant that we, our sin's forgiv'n, follow in the way of heav'n.

May we, even at our worst, show forgiveness shown us first. Guard us from the tempting devil, and deliver us from evil. Yours the kingdom so sing we, pow'r and glory ever be. Unto you while ages run. Yea, Amen! So be it done! Unto you while ages run. Yea, Amen! So be it done!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.

LAMB OF GOD

(tune: O Little Town Of Bethlehem)

O Lamb of God from Bethlehem, where Mary gave you birth. Grant us your grace and mercy, Redeemer of the earth. O Lamb of God forgive us, for we still live in sin. Enter our hearts and guide our lives, give us your peace within.

DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

(ELW p. 296)

(ELW p. 271).

What Child is This

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

POST COMMUNION SONG

(tune: Away In A Manger)

Lord, now in your mercy your servants release. As your word has promised, Oh, Grant us your peace. Our eyes, your salvation and mercy behold, Prepared for the nations as prophets foretold.

A light to the Gentiles, by whom they now see The glory of Isr'el the Promised one be. Who lives now and ever, the heaven's bright Son, With Father and Spirit, eternally one.

LIGHTING OF THE JESUS CANDLE

In a world where so many wait in darkness, light comes into our hearts through a baby born in a manger! He is Immanuel, Christ the Lord! Hear the word of the Lord:

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. The light shines and the darkness cannot put it out!!

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG

(ELW p. 281) *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for our sins. Thank you that He rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✝ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
Thanks be to God.