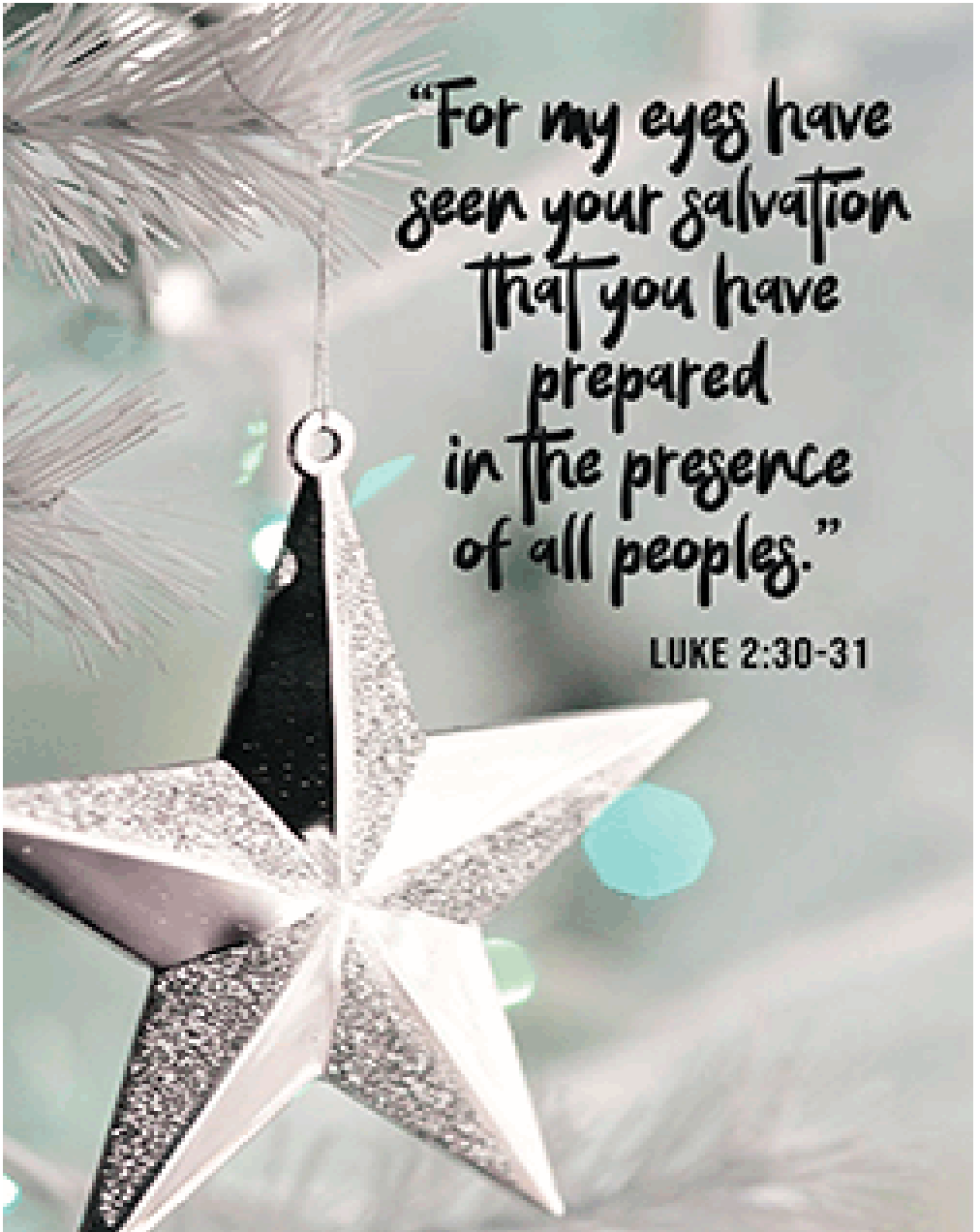


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)



“For my eyes have  
seen your salvation  
that you have  
prepared  
in the presence  
of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31

10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 26, 2021  
Sermon: “Prepared for Heaven!” Luke 2:22–40



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -  
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 26, 2021

**Servants of God's House Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu    **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

**Praise Team Accompanist:** Doris Hill

**Usher:** Tim Draube

**Missionaries:** Charles Cortwright, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,  
Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Paul Flo

**Reader:** Chaney Neff

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**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus' birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn't help but say, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word," while also telling Mary, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed." That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Worship Service**

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

**The Ringing of the Bells**

**The Wave of Fellowship**

### **The Invocation**

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

**C: Amen.**

## Opening Song

### **“Mary’s Little Boy Child”**

Long time ago in Bethlehem So the Holy Bible say,  
Mary’s Boy Child, Jesus Christ, Was born on Christmas day.  
Hark, now hear the angels sing, “New King’s born today,  
And man will live forevermore Because of Christmas Day.”

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
They saw a bright new shining star, And heard a choir from heaven sing;  
The music came from a far.  
Hark, now hear the angels sing, “New King’s born today,  
And man will live forevermore Because of Christmas Day.”

Now Joseph and his wife Mary Came to Bethlehem that night;  
They found no place to bear her Child; Not a single room was in sight.  
By and by, they found a little nook In a stable all forlorn,  
And in a manger cold and dark, Mary’s little Boy Child was born.  
Trumpets sound and angels sing; Listen to what they say,  
That man will live forevermore Because of Christmas Day.

(Words & music by Jester Hairston, 1981 Schumann Music Co., used by permission)  
CCLI #11440148 and 20162974

## Apostles’ Creed

### First Lesson

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)

<p><sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” <sup>3a</sup>Then Moses said to the people, <sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you, and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’S. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not</p>	<p>redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”</p>
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## Second Lesson

Colossians 3:12–17

(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

<sup>22</sup> 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

<sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")

<sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**Confession and Absolution**      *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.**

P: Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

**Children's Message**

**The Song of Instruction**    "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Refrain:      *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)
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn (refrain)  
(Public domain)

**The Word**

"Prepared for Heaven!"

Luke 2:22–40

**WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING**

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

**St. Paul's members** have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

**To our guest:** Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

*2 Corinthians 9:8— And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

## **Offertory**      “What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!  
(Public domain)

## **The Prayer of the Church**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Benediction**      *Luke 2:29–32*

P: Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you all. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—abide with you, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Going Out Song**      “This Is Jesus”

Night of wonder still and silent heaven's brilliance from above.  
Light of glory pierced the darkness, mercy pierced my heart with love.

This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.

O the myst'ry, who could fathom? God would leave His Holy throne  
for a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own.

This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of peace and Lord of all.

Rejoice, He is with us.  
Rejoice, Hope is here.

Rejoice, He is with us.  
Rejoice, Hope is here. (Repeat)

This is Jesus, King of Glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.

For the hearts so prone to wander, for these feet so quick to flee,  
God is here and love is reaching for the lost and least of these.

Song by Darren Mulligan, Kyle Williams, Drake Kennedy and Tony Wood. CCLI #11440148 and 20162974

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)**

**New Year's Eve Worship** 6:00 p.m.

**Worship Services** Traditional (Sat., 6:00 p.m. & Sun., 8:15 a.m.)  
Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m.)

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