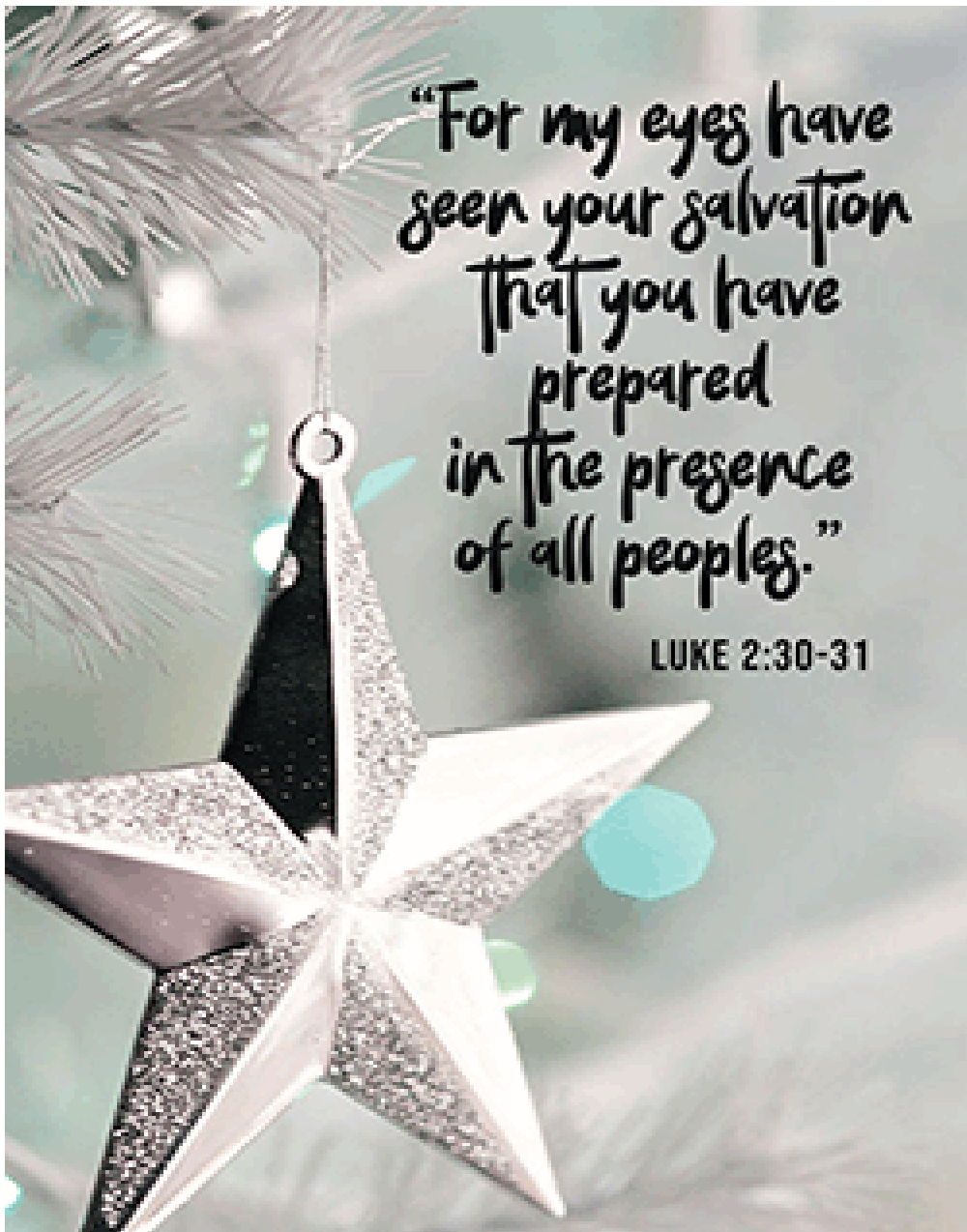


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
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“For my eyes have
seen your salvation
that you have
prepared
in the presence
of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31

8:15 a.m. Sun., 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**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(8:15 a.m. Sun., December 26, 2021)

Servants of God's House

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

Organists: 8:15 a.m. Sun., Doris Hill

Usher: Doug Lehr

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

Readers: 8:15 a.m. Sun. Jim Winckler

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 with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

Hymn of Invocation

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

The Wave of Fellowship

LSB 386

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

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

C: Amen.

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.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of our newborn King, which is beyond our understanding, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our salvation from Christ, the Prince of Peace, for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Holy Christian Church, for we have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

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

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“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.”
^{3a}Then Moses said to the people,
¹¹“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, ¹²you 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. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not

redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And 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.

¹⁵For 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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.
(*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*)

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

L: And His name shall be called

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

The Epistle Lesson

Colossians 3:12–17

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

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing 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. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you

were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let 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. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia Luke 2:30–32

C: Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:22–40 (Jesus is brought to the temple.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

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 male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother

marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And 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 ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And 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, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And 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.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "What Child Is This" LSB 370
Sermon "Prepared for Heaven!" Luke 2:22–40

The Apostles' Creed (on the back cover of the hymnal)

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

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 Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393

(stand as you are able)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs. Wonderful Counselor, we praise and thank You for guiding us with the Word of Christ, which dwells richly in us. Bless all pastors and teachers of Your Word, that they teach and admonish Your people with all of Your wisdom so that whatever we do, in word or deed, we do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. O God of our salvation,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, You created this world and everything in it through Your powerful Word and still take care of it. Continue to watch over and work through all who lead and serve our nation, state, and local communities. Lead and guide all first responders and members of the military as they carry out their duties to protect and serve. O God of our salvation,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting Father, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We ask for Your encouragement, healing, and care for all who are struggling with their health, *especially* Leroy Zeising, Helen Eriksen, Verlie Yockey, Bernie Attema and we pray for Kendra and Jose Gomez and their new little baby, Elsie Gomez who is currently in the NICU in Omaha and Dawn Bratvold's new grandson Miles Bratvold. We continue to pray for those weak and dealing with ongoing sicknesses: Mary Kay Holiday, Natalie Powell, Deb Chellew, Lowell Chellew, Bethamy Lewis and Suzy Awe. Heal the broken hearts of those who grieve the loss of those close to them. O God of our salvation,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Prince of Peace, we praise and thank You for the peace we have in You. Empower us and all of your missionary people to embrace the opportunities You give us to share the gift of Your redemption. O God of our salvation,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Ryan Dodds, Steven Segebart, Marrisra Dodds, Steve Rogers, Jody Taylor, Jerrica Barnes, Dana Beatty, Charlotte Hansen and Sharon Sparr. O God of our salvation,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 Closing Hymn

“O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + +

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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