

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA January 5, 2025 9:00 A.M.
Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel readings' profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:12-20
(read responsively)

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.

- ¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁵ God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?
- ¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- ¹⁹ God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgement to Israel.
- ²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgements. Hallelujah!

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The 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. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who 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. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Del Olivier

Hymn of the Day

Of the Father's Love Begotten

#295

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...We praise you name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

(Tune: Angels We Have Heard On High)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love and God of might,
heav'n and earth are glorious with your presence and your light.
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-ria! In excelsis Deo.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy.

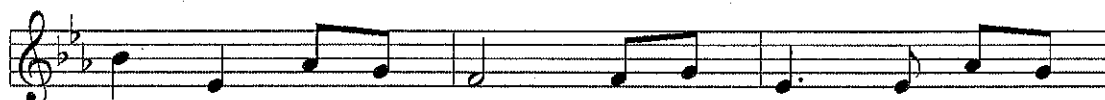
Come to the table.

Distribution

Holy Child Within the Manger



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



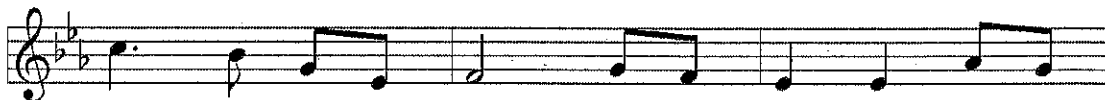
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



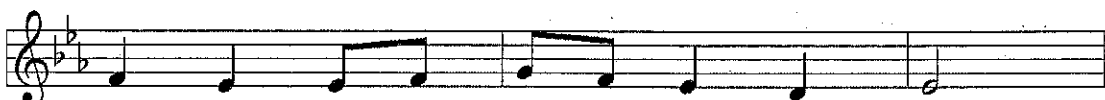
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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O Come, Little Children

O come, little children, O come, one and all. O come to the table and answer his call.
For Jesus is calling to you and to me. O come to the table and there you'll be free.

O come, little children, O come, one and all. O come to the table and answer his call.
For Jesus, the Lamb, took our sins far away. O come to the table, you're welcome
today.

O come, little children, O come, one and all. O come to the table and answer his call.
For Jesus is living and gives us his peace. O come to the table; O come to the feast.

Text: John Ylvisaker © 1990 John Ylvisaker
Music: "Ihr Kinderlein Kommet", J.A.P. Schultz, 1790, arr. J. Y.
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Prayer After Communion

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by
this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share
the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

Closing Song

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#288

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Guest Pastor:	Pastor Del Olivier
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Susan Endrulat
Deacons:	Justin Georg and Braden Else
Greeters:	Leo & Terri Schimmer
Acolytes:	Mason Christiansen and Tregg Bagenstos
Sound & Video:	Lex Jacobson and Cecily Jacobson
Coffee Hosts:	Kyle & Dana Meyer Kelby & Joy Wulf

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, January 5 ~ Second Sunday of Christmas

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, January 8

5:00 PM LOGOS ~ *"Under the Sea"*

SUNDAY, January 12 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

9:00 AM	Worship with Lamb Presentation to 3 year olds
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM	Christmas Clean up