



**Sunday, January 3, 2021 - 9:00 am
Online Worship**

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Thanksgiving for the Word: Christmas

Holy God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.
For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,
to shine in our world's darkness,
to speak peace to all people,
and to welcome us as members of your family.
For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

We adore you, O God.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
we may live as your children,
bearing your goodness throughout the world.
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

All glory to you, holy God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷The LORD says, "Sing with joy for Israel, the greatest of the nations.

Sing your song of praise, 'The LORD has saved his people; he has rescued all who are left.' ⁸I will bring them from the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. The blind and the lame will come with them, pregnant women and those about to give birth. They will come back a great nation. ⁹My people will return weeping, praying as I lead them back. I will guide them to streams of water,

on a smooth road where they will not stumble. I am like a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my oldest son.” ¹⁰The LORD says, “Nations, listen to me and proclaim my words on the far-off shores. I scattered my people, but I will gather them and guard them as a shepherd guards his flock. ¹¹I have set Israel's people free and have saved them from a mighty nation. ¹²They will come and sing for joy on Mount Zion and be delighted with my gifts— gifts of grain and wine and olive oil, gifts of sheep and cattle. They will be like a well-watered garden; they will have everything they need. ¹³Then the young women will dance and be happy, and men, young and old, will rejoice. I will comfort them and turn their mourning into joy, their sorrow into gladness. ¹⁴I will fill the priests with the richest food and satisfy all the needs of my people. I, the LORD, have spoken.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. ⁴Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him. Because of his love ⁵God^[a] had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children—this was his pleasure and purpose. ⁶Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son! ⁷For by the blood of Christ^[b] we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, ⁸which he gave to us in such large measure! In all his wisdom and insight ⁹God did what he had purposed, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ. ¹⁰This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head. ¹¹All things are done according to God's plan and decision; and God chose us to be his own people in union with Christ because of his own purpose, based on what he had decided from the very beginning. ¹²Let us, then, who were the first to hope in Christ, praise God's glory! ¹³And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised. ¹⁴The Spirit is the guarantee that we shall receive what God has promised his people, and this assures us that God will give complete freedom to those who are his. Let us praise his glory!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 1: 1-9,10-18

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²From the very beginning the Word was with God. ³Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. ⁴The Word was the source of life,^[a] and

this life brought light to people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. ⁶ God sent his messenger, a man named John, ⁷ who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. ⁹ This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all people. ¹⁰ The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. ¹³ They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father. ¹⁴ The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son. ¹⁵ John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'" ¹⁶ Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. ¹⁷ God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

SONG OF THE DAY: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayers of intercession

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Generosity & Meditation

You are invited to give online:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=MG4RKUJT9HM6E&source=url

You can also send your offering to the church:

5879 Wyoming Trail, PO Box 583, Wyoming, MN 55092

Special Music: *“Jesus Savior” - St. Paul Praise Band*

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving Dialog

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.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Distribution

All may take and give communion at the same time

**The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

St. Paul Lutheran Transition Prayer

God of hope,

We are treading the path of transition. We praise you and ask you to make straight our path. As we seek to call a new pastor, surround and ground the Ministry Site Profile Team and paperwork, the Call Committee, and the Synod staff in your Holy Spirit.

Give the Pastor you are preparing for us clarity of call and joy in finding us.

Sustain in this congregation, and in each of us, trust in your Holy Spirit, patience in the process, and generosity for the future of your church. Resolve any conflict and break down any barriers that remain among us.

Give us open minds and hearts as we welcome our new pastor and a new season of this congregation's ministry.

Through the abundant love of your Son, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

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

Announcements

Blessing

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: "THE FIRST NOEL"

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us for worship at St. Paul today! May God's guidance, grace, and comfort be your strength in these days of uncertainty. May we continue to love one another, reach out in the ways that we can, and be the body of Christ for a hurting and anxious world.

*Join us for worship every Sunday morning at 9:00am on Facebook and at www.sharingchristlove.org
Permission to print & stream service music obtained from CCLI; License #855924; Streaming #20800937.*

This week we are praying for:

Arnie	Jim G.	Bob	Kent & Brenda W.
Vicki & family	Fran D.	Wendy & her mom	Amanda
Pat	Chad O.	Wynette	Andre
Janet N.	First Responders	Military members	Elaine
Dee W. daughter	Michelle I. & Family	COVID medical/frontline staff	



January 3rd, 2020 – News & Updates

Church Council

- You are invited to **SERVE on CHURCH COUNCIL!** If you are able, please contact any current member of the council. Our congregation would benefit from your leadership!

Sunday School

- Sunday School will meet via Zoom on Sunday, January 10, 2021. Zoom instructions will be emailed to parents next week. Please let Melissa know at admin@sharingchristsllove.org if your child wishes to participate in Sunday School and you have not been receiving the Sunday School emails this past fall. A schedule for the spring Sunday School classes will be sent to parents in the coming weeks.

Service Opportunities

- **Building Cleaning:** Please help us keep our building clean! Here is the online schedule. If you have any questions, contact the SPLC Covid team: safety@sharingchristsllove.org.
 - Sign up for bathroom cleaning [here](#)
 - Sign up for vacuuming [here](#)
 - Sign up for sweeping and mopping [here](#)
 - Sign up for emptying garbage and cleaning high touch surfaces [here](#)

Office Hours

- Pastor Christoph and Melissa work remotely most days. You can reach Pastor Christoph and Melissa at 651-462-5212, or through E-mail: pastor@sharingchristsllove.org and admin@sharingchristsllove.org.