

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas**  
**Nunc Dimittis**  
**December 27, 2020**  
**11:00am**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**ST. PAUL**  
— BERA EST. 1866 —

# W E L C O M E

*To know and serve Christ by reaching out in love to all.*

Please wear a mask during this service and while you are in the building.

This service has been modeled after the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One and does not include congregational singing. All singing will be done by Pastor and secluded choir members.

Our financial gifts are offered as a response to what God has given us, and as a reminder that we are caretakers of the world he created. Our members support this church. Visitors are not expected to give an offering. Offerings will be collected in the plates as you exit the nave.

Ushers will direct the way to exit after the service.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Your health is our concern.



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***Due to necessary restrictions on congregational singing, Pastor and choir members will sing the congregation's parts throughout the service.***

**Prelude**

**Noel in G**

**Claude Daquin**

**Call to Worship**

***Cold December Flies Away***

**LBW 53**

**↑ Confession**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please kneel as you are able.*

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand.*

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

**C: And also with you.**

↓ **Introit** (*Psalm 93:1,3-4; antiphon: Psalm 93:5,2*)

**R: Your decrees are very / trustworthy;\***  
**holiness befits your house, O LORD, for-/ evermore.**  
**Your throne is established / from of old;\***  
**you are from / everlasting.**

P: The LORD reigns; he is robed in / majesty;\*  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength / as his belt.  
Yes, the world / is established;\*  
it nev- / er be moved.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted / up their voice;\*

the floods lift / up their roaring.

Mightier than the thunders of many waters,  
mightier than the waves / of the sea,\*

the LORD on / high is mighty!

**R: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\***  
**and to the / Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in / the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

**Your decrees are very / trustworthy;\***  
**holiness befits your house, O LORD, for-/ evermore.**  
**Your throne is established / from of old;\***  
**you are from / everlasting.**

**Choir Carol:**

**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**

**Greeting and Collect**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, you wonderfully created us, and in the incarnation of your Son yet more wondrously developed our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in him who made himself to be like us; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Hebrew Scriptures** (*Isaiah 11:1-5*)

A: A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** (*Psalm 45:2a,1b*)

**R: You are the most handsome of the / sons of men;\***  
**grace is poured up- / on your lips.**  
**I address my verses / to the king:\***  
**my tongue is like the pen of a / ready scribe.**

**The Christian Scriptures** (*Galatians 4:1-7*)

**A:** A reading from Galatians:

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## ↑ The Gospel Acclamation



**R** Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.



## **The Holy Gospel** (Luke 2:22-40)

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought [Jesus] 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.”

*Continued on next page*

<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.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



## The Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**↓ Choral Carol:**

***What Child is This***

**LBW 40**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dan Skillman**

**Musical Offering**

***Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella***

**John Rutter**

**Announcements**

**Prayers of the People**

**A:** Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**Preface**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. A red square with the letter 'R' is placed above the first note of the first staff.

**R** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promises to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, give 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.



P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup,

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy one of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

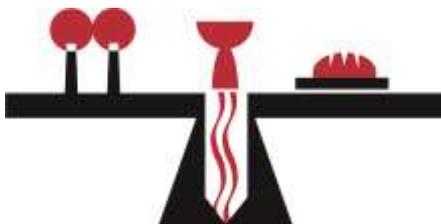
**C: Amen.**

### **Pax Domini**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Distribution**



**Post-Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

**Post-Communion Cantic**

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,

and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## **Post-Communion Collect**

**A:** We pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **Choral Sending**

***It Came upon the Midnight Clear***

**LBW 54**

## **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

***God Rest Ye Merry***

**Wilbur Held**



## Contributors to the Service

*Presiding Minister*

*Rev. Dan Skillman*

*Organist*

*Dale Hukill*

*Assisting Minister*

*Dean Firing*

*Covenant Singers*

*Valerie Mathis, Mary Murphy, Shaun McGrath,  
Maverick Donahue*

*Ushers*

*Members of Team 7 and 8*

*Audio/Video*

*Phillip Sultan, Jeff Campbell, Nate French*



## **NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**

January 3, 2021

**9:00 am "Drive In"**

**11:00 am "In Building"**

The Epiphany of Our Lord / The Visit of the Magi

## **READINGS**

Matthew 2:1-12 (Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12)

Listen again to music and sermons: [www.stpaulbera.org/music](http://www.stpaulbera.org/music)

Watch again by following YouTube at: [www.stpaulbera.org](http://www.stpaulbera.org)

**Sermon Notes**

## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

<i>President</i>	<i>Randy Genther</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Aaron Ozanich</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jen Hinton</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>	<i>Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenschenkel, Phillip Sultan, Rob Winwood, Donna Tindera, Dan Skillman</i>

## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Rev. Dan Skillman</i>
<b>danielskillman@stpaulbera.org / 440-251-4423</b>	
<i>Administrative Assistants</i>	<i>Sherrill Crawford/Dean Firing</i>
<b>officestaff@stpaulbera.org</b>	
<i>Director of Music Ministry</i>	<i>Dale Hukill</i>
<b>music@stpaulbera.org</b>	
<i>Assistant Organist</i>	<i>Richard Shirey</i>
<i>Handbell Choir Directors</i>	<i>Culley Coughlin/Marilyn Niksa</i>
<i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	<i>Susan Moore</i>
<b>children@stpaulbera.org</b>	
<i>Bookkeeper/Treasurer</i>	<i>Lynnette Ozanich</i>
<i>Nursery Care Attendant</i>	<i>Gail Brandt</i>
<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Gail Voigt-Ryan</i>

## Early Education Center

<i>Board Chair</i>	<i>Joan Holden</i>
<i>Director &amp; Teachers</i>	<i>Liz Campbell &amp; Sharon Genther</i>

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekdays 9-12, 1-4

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