First Sunday after Christmas "The Christ-Child in the Temple"



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."

Luke 2:29-32

Welcome

Welcome to all members and visitors! We are pleased to have you with us as we receive Christ's gifts and as we respond in thanks and praise. Guests, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers. Prayers of preparation for worship can be found on the inside front cover of the hymnal.

The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday of the month. St. Paul's observes the biblical practice of closed communion. Members of sister congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to commune with us. We ask visitors who are not members of the LCMS to speak with one of our pastors if

you are interested in learning more about our church and communion practices. Those not communing with us at this service are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Those Serving Us

Preacher/Liturgist: Rev. Timothy Frank

Pianist: Brett Allen

Kantors: Allison Storey (8:00 a.m.); Samuel Frank (10:45 a.m.)

The Word In Music

Prelude: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" – arr. Valerie Floeter

Offering: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" – arr. Valerie Floeter

Postlude: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" – arr. Valerie Floeter

Kantor's Notes: In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son for you! This fact gives us peace confidence not just in our relationship with God, but it also gives us peace confidence to face whatever time brings. When the timing in our lives isn't going according to our plans, or when we're tempted to doubt God's goodness for us, we can know that even in those times God promises to work all things for the good of those whom He has redeemed. We don't need to fear the passing of time. For as God worked in time to fulfill His greatest purpose, so He will in His time work all of His gracious purposes for you.

Our hymn of the season expresses the joy that we have through this confident faith: "Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing, and to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free." (LSB 375:5)

Hymn of the Season: Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising LSB 375

Divine Service Setting 3

Prelude:



- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
 The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
 There you will find the infant laid
 By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us His own dear Son.
- Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,And see what in the manger lies.Who is this child, so young and fair?It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Exhortation

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introit



Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*

holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.

Your throne is established | from of old;*

you are from ever- lasting.

The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;*

the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.

Yes, the world is es- | tablished;*

it shall 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!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Your decrees are very | trustworthy;*

holiness befits your house, O LORD, for-levermore.

Your throne is established | from of old;*

you are from ever- | lasting.

Kyrie LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

- **P** Glory be to God on high:
- and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
 We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
 - O Lord God, neav my King, God the Father Almign
 - O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- 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.
- C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1–5

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

²And 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 the fear of the LORD.

³And 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,

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Galatians 4:1–7

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

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse LSB 190

- C Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.
- A Give ear, O my people, to my | teaching;* incline your ears to the words | of my mouth!
- C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Luke 2:22–40

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- **C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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 Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed LSB 191

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

389 Let All Together Praise Our God



5 He is a servant, I a lord:

How great a mystery!

How strong the tender Christ Child's love!

No truer friend than He.

No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door

To blessèd paradise;

The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,

To God our praises rise.

 \triangle 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,

Lord Jesus, we adore

And praise to God the Father yield

And Spirit evermore;

We praise You evermore.

Stand

Offertory LSB 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

We welcome communicant members of our sister congregations of the LCMS to join us in receiving the Lord's Supper. Other visitors are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Preface LSB 194

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

Sanctus LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

P 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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 197

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution



372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is



5 Remember thou

What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

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380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 1 Hark! The her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new born King;
- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb. Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty! Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!" Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u - el! Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving LSB 200

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- **C** and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation LSB 201

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus LSB 202

- **A** Bless we the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction LSB 202

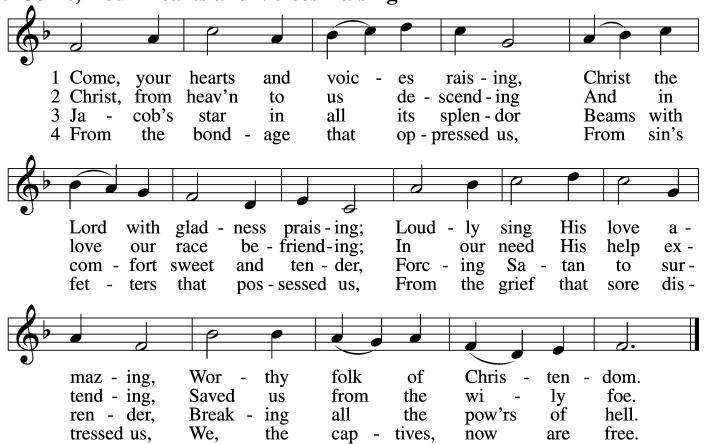
- The Lord bless you and keep you.

 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and

 → give you peace.
- C Amen, amen, amen.

375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



- Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,
 And to You we come confessing
 That Your love has set us free.
- Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us

 Till we join Your choir above.

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

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Opportunities for Growth

This Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Combined Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
Wednesday		No Christ Academy
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: Chris Circo, Mary Johannes, Jayne McIlrath, Elizabeth Bowerman, Karen Brandenburg, Gertrud Rossbund, Ryan Pedersen (son of Art & Julie Gardner), Trent Casey, John Shafer (father of Kelli Salin), Miles Maurice (grandson of Joel & Paulette Maurice), Tina Lamason (sister of Brad White), Marge Miller, Dawn Letcher (daughter of Tony and Shirley Gust), Cole (cousin of Kelli Salin), Lu Schwery (mother of Denise Krohn), Arla Mae Ebers (mother of Julie Moreno), Randy Falknor (cousin of Kent Seetin)

Karen Brandenburg, and all our shut ins.

Our missionaries: Deaconess Sandra Rhein & Ms. Becky Bartelt

News and Notes

December service schedule:

Divine Worship Service New Year's Eve, December 31st at 7:00pm

Dear members of St. Paul's,

Thank you for your many cards, gifts, and special kindness this Advent and Christmas. Thank you especially for your prayers, service, and support of the Lord's work throughout the year. God's blessings to you and your families as we celebrate the gift of His Son, through Whom we have greatest joy! – St. Paul's pastors and staff

Catechism

The Lord's Prayer

The First Petition: Hallowed by Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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712-322-4729

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Cell: 712-310-4248

Nathansherrill1978@gmail.com

Associate Pastor/Kantor - Rev. Timothy Frank

Cell: 712-269-3683

pastorfrank239@gmail.com

Pastors Emeriti - Rev. James Tews & Rev. Robert Lindau

Parish Administrator - Heidi Bernhards

splccboffice@splccb.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - noon

St. Paul's Early Childhood Center

1500 N. 16th St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-322-3294

www.splecc.org

Director - Becca Heinicke

becca.heinicke@splecc.org

Administrative Assistant – Glennda Hedlund

glennda.hedlund@splecc.org

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Music Conservatory

239 Frank St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-322-8832

Administrator - Rev. Timothy Frank

Cell: 712-269-3683

pastorfrank239@gmail.com