



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2024

7:00 & 11:00 P.M.

FIRST ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

501 N. Burlington Ave. Hastings, NE 68901

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 [@firststpauls](https://www.facebook.com/firststpauls)

Pastor Joel Remmers, Senior Pastor
Pastor Chad Power, Associate Pastor

Prelude

Announcements and Peace

Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

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

Prayer of the Day

First Reading (Responsively)

Luke 2:1 - 7

L: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

C: This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

L: And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

C: And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house of David.

*L: He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.*

C: She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger,

L: because there was no room for them in the inn.

Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing Their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?*

Refrain

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels, sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born.*

Refrain



The staff of First St. Paul's wishes the congregation and visitors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are truly blessed to serve you and with you, as United, we live God's will. We look forward to where God will lead us in 2025.

Dates to Remember

December 31st: Gifts and Offerings you would like credited to 2024 should be to the Church Office, Attn: Megan by 5:00 p.m. or may be placed in the offering plate during services on December 28th & 29th.

January 1st: Office will be closed.

January 1st: No Ichthus

January 8th: Wednesday Evening Ichthus resumes.

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers 7:00 P.M.

Greeters & Ushers: Vernon Krull and Tom Shane

Acolytes: Landon Gregg

Worship Assistant: Pastor Chad Power

Communion Assistants: Pastor Joel Remmers and Pastor Chad Power

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers 11:00 P.M.

Greeters & Ushers: Jotie & Kennedy Montague, Jennifer Karl and the Treffer family

Acolytes: Kennedy Montague

Worship Assistant: Pastor Chad Power

Communion Assistants: Pastor Joel Remmers, Pastor Chad Power and Jennifer Karl

Fifth Reading

John 1:1 - 5, 14 and 1 John 1:5

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all the people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. This is the message we have heard from the beginning and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Hymn No. 281**"Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Prayers of the Church

L: God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Extinguish Candles**Benediction****Closing Hymn No. 267****"Joy to the World"**

*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.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

Sending

L: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 2:8 - 14

L: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them:

C: "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

L: Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

C: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Song**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing! "Glory to the newborn king!"

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!*

Refrain

*Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.*

Refrain**Third Reading (Responsively)**

Luke 2:15 - 20

L: When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

C: They went with haste and found Mary, Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

L: But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

C: The shepherds returned, glorifying God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

Song**"The Bells of Christmas" (vs 1, 2, 6)**

*The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly
guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings
still with new year gifts of peace, good will.*

*This world though wide and far out spread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall
No pearl or silk nor kingly hall.*

*Come Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.*

Fourth Reading

Matthew 2:1 - 2, 11 - 12

L: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Pastor Joel Remmers

Song

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in God, the Father, the 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge on baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering and Offertory

Song

"The First Noel"

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

*And by the light of that same star three wisemen came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent
and to follow the star wherever it went
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

Offering Prayer

L: Thanks and praise be to you, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, and God of promise and fulfillment. Of old, your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and you sent forth Jesus Christ, your Son. Having seen his glory, now we wait also for the day of consummation, when he will come again as Judge and King.

C: Amen.

Communion Liturgy

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Great Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Distribution

(The congregation comes forward down the center aisle. If you believe in the promises of Jesus, you are welcome to the communion table.)

Communion Hymns

Hymn No. 282

Hymn No. 296

Hymn No. 276

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

"What Child is This"

"Infant, Holy, Infant Lowly"

Table Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray,

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, we praise you for your coming as a child to accomplish our salvation. We give thanks for these gifts of bread and wine which bring us forgiveness, newness of life and renewed community with one another. Let us become what you intend for us to be, by your help and with your strength, for the sake of the one who was, and is, and is to come.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

In a moment, the ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle. They will light candles from the aisles. As you light your candle, please hold the lit candle upright, and tip unlit candles to light. We lift the candles when the song refers to the name of Jesus. Follow the lead of the pastor and worship assistant.