

# ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 3, 2021**

## **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)  
www.clclutheran.org

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)  
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

### **ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT**

*(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)*

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 148 (pew bible, p.559)
- ◆ The Hymns: 362, 361, 392, 390
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 2:10-18
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 72
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (last page of liturgy insert)

**Sermon Text – John 7:40-53**

### ***TWO MIRACLES IN CHRISTMAS***

1. God becoming man in the person of Jesus.
2. Your recognizing Him and holding fast to Him in faith.

- ◆ Prayer & the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (390)

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*Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by  
the tract rack or by request from an usher.*

*You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by  
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.  
There will be no offering collection during the service.*

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

## First Lesson – Micah 5:2-5a

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be their peace.

## Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 72

P Endow the king with your justice, O God:  
C The royal son with your righteousness.  
P He will defend the afflicted among the people:  
C And save the children of the needy.  
P He will endure as long as the sun:  
C As long as the moon, through all generations.  
P He will be like rain falling on a mown field:  
C Like showers watering the earth.  
P All kings will bow down to him:  
C And all nations will serve him.  
P All nations will be blessed through him:  
C And they will call him blessed.  
P Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds:  
C May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

## Second Lesson – Hebrews 2:10-18

10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make

atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Sermon Text – John 7:40-53**

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “He is the Christ.” Still others asked, “How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David’s family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. 45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” 46 “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared. 47 “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. 48 “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.” 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 “Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?” 52 They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.” 53 Then each went to his own home.

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**A WARM WELCOME IN CHRIST TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS.** We’re glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus! Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He would be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

**SERVING US AT GOD’S HOUSE TODAY**

**Organist: Suzannah Miller**

**Usher: Bob Rankin**

**Communion Usher: Ed Chiappetti**

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (1/3)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion (No Sunday School or Bible Class)
Sun (1/10)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (The Wise Men, NT 4)
	10:45 am	Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting
	10:45 am	Undecorating

### UPCOMING IN JANUARY

Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 17, 10:45 am

Church Council Installation: Sunday, January 24

**PASTOR WILL BE OUT OF TOWN** this week taking vacation days visiting family in Minnesota. He plans to return to Colorado at the beginning of the following week. In an emergency you may reach him at this number: 720-465-4809. In the pastor's absence, next Sunday's service will be a lay service.

### SYNOD NEWS

- ◆ **From Missionary Todd Ohlmann:** "Pastor Charles Edwards in Myanmar suffered a massive stroke yesterday (12/28) and later passed away. He was sixty-four years old and is survived by five children, a brother, and two sisters. Pastor Edwards was the only theologically trained pastor of the National Lutheran Church of Myanmar that he founded in Yangon. The CLC has been in fellowship with the NLC-Myanmar since 2014. Pastor Edwards served one congregation in Yangon and several preaching stations. He also worked with several orphanages in the Yangon area to provide Bible instruction and school supplies for more than 300 children. These are sad and uncertain times for the NLC-Myanmar and his family. Please pray for Pastor Edward's five children; Sam (28), Anna (25), John Mark (21), Hope (19), and Faith (13), along with his brother and sisters, other family members, and the many souls that were blessed by his faithful preaching and teaching of God's saving word."
- ◆ **From Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer (serving Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN):** "As I've gotten a couple of questions about our Christmas Eve service at Berea, I thought I would pass along a "Reader's Digest Version." Since Berea's Elders chose to have children's recitations recorded and projected in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, we figured we would try to include children from our fellowship around the world reciting Christmas passages in their native tongue. We could not be more thankful for the response we received! They frequently did MORE than the short verses I asked for. It made for a special Christmas Eve here and wanted to share that joy with others. A big thank you to Todd Ohlmann for initiating contact with our brethren overseas and Rick Nelson for compiling the video clips. Here is an 8 minute excerpt from our service: [https://youtu.be/BO2Q\\_zHZp\\_0](https://youtu.be/BO2Q_zHZp_0)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS**  
**JANUARY 4-9**

**Mon Micah 5:2-5a** For 700 years Israelites had known Micah's prophecy of the Savior, so why was it a *mystery* to them? Let's follow the dots: David had been dead for centuries, so Micah wasn't pointing to him as *ruler in Israel*, but to someone who has been functioning *from everlasting*. Besides, He shall be *great to the ends of the Earth, and He shall be Peace*. All the data point to the Messiah, and Bible believers have been correct in recognizing Jesus of Bethlehem as the Messiah, God's saving gift to humanity. Thank You, Jesus!

**Tues John 7:40-43** Folks who knew the prophecies were trying to figure out if Jesus could be the Prophet predicted by Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18). Since Jesus came from Nazareth, that seemed to disqualify Him—but they should have checked it out to discover that He had been born in Bethlehem and was a blood relative of King David. [Matthew and Luke did the research.]

**Epiphany Wed. Ephesians 3:2-12** God has placed you and me atop a tall step ladder, from which we see God's whole enterprise from beginning to end. From a lower step (in an earlier century) the Apostle Paul admitted that God opened up the *mystery of the ages* to him, a *latecomer* into God's family (8)—revealing that God embraced non-Jews also in His great love and mercy (12).

**Thurs Psalm 72** God opened mysteries to Solomon (shared with us) that via His coronation as King (1) Jesus has been authorized to bring justice (3-4) for all time (5), generously (6-7), over the whole planet and all sorts of people (8-10), for all human needs (12-14), convincingly and for their blessing (15-17). All of which we appreciate amid our troubled times. Amen and Amen!

**Fri Matthew 2:1-12** We would be surprised to find an obituary that praised the deceased for having been *wise*. Smart, witty, loving, etc., but what's missing is *wise – wise* for coming from afar to worship the Christ-Child. We continue to pray that God would bring travelers from afar to Bethlehem, and beneath that star open their hearts to God's gift from heaven. Dear God, make more people *wise* unto salvation! In Jesus' name.

**Sat Hebrews 2:10-18** Why was it *fitting* for the Son of God to become human? Because salvation depends on a genuine human regaining what the first humans lost. [That seems fair and square—*just* in Scripture language.] By His genuine human life (not by a wave of His hand), by becoming our Brother (11) to defend us, fight for us, suffer for us, and even sacrifice Himself for us in order to save us, Jesus fits the bill. Everything in the entire enterprise was *fitting for Him* (10). So that's why the Trinity did it that way. For you and me. Praise the Lord! Amen!