



# ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (\*), you are invited to stand as you are able.  
You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

**PRELUDE: "People Look East"**

*(Dale Wood)*

## GATHERING

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**A: Amen.**

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

P: God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

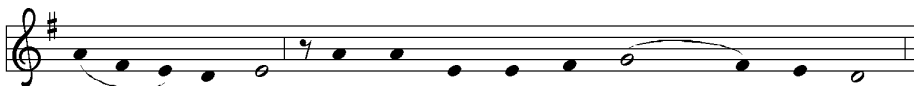
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*(ELW 257)*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way.  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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## \*GREETING

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

## KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-

lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Christ be our Light, verse 4)*

4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
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P: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **A: Amen.**

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A**

*The book of Micah was written when Jerusalem was surrounded by an invading army. While the situation was bleak, Micah reminds the people of the promise made to David (whose home town was Bethlehem): his dynasty would not fail, and God would provide both a righteous king and peace.*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
    in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth,

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE: LUKE 1:46B-55 HOLDEN MAGNIFICAT

While the response to the first reading is almost always a psalm, occasionally another song from Scripture appears here. Today, the response is Mary's song, which concludes today's Gospel reading, which is a response to Elizabeth's declaration that the child Mary bore would fulfill the promises of Micah and the other prophets. Mary's song is traditionally sung in the Evening Prayer Office.

### The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

*All*



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my  
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind-ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the  
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom-ised to

D.C.  
weak and low-ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!  
Sar - ah and A - bra-ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.



# SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

One of the themes of Hebrews is that Jesus has fulfilled and replaced Israel's Temple and sacrificial system as the meeting-place of God and humans. The "body you have prepared for me" is an appropriate reference to the Gospel reading's description of Christ's coming in the flesh.

- <sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."  
<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Here I am, the servant of the Lord,

Repeat alleluias

let it be with me according to your word \_\_\_\_\_

## \*INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"* (ELW 265)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## \*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1:39-45 [46-55]

*While she and her husband are aged, Elizabeth has miraculously become pregnant with the child who will become John the Baptist. In the meantime, in Nazareth, her cousin Mary has received a visit from the angel Gabriel, who offers her the opportunity to become the mother of Jesus. Mary travels to Jerusalem to meet Elizabeth.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what

was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Savior of the Nations, Come*”

(ELW 263)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.*

Name/s have come to our congregation from name of congregation in location.

## APOSTLES' CREED

*The presiding minister introduces the Creed.*

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?*

*Those being welcomed respond.*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these* new *members* in *their* life in Christ?

**A: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

WELCOME

*Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

P: Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

**A: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

L: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks, or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: God our gatherer, we give you thanks for our new member, Edna, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died especially Sheldon Corl and Jean Anderson, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

## MEAL

### OFFERING



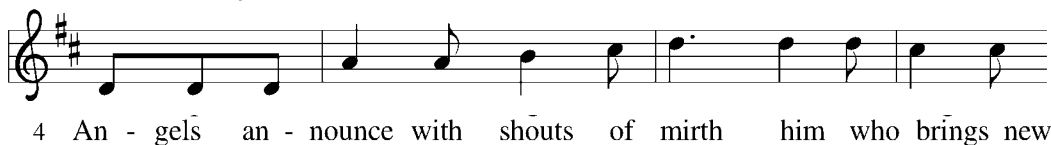
Offerings can be made online at [stpaulpgm.org/give](http://stpaulpgm.org/give), mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

**MUSICAL OFFERING: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

*(Michael Burkhardt)*

**OFFERTORY: "People, Look East" vs. 3**

*(ELW 248)*



life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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## \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

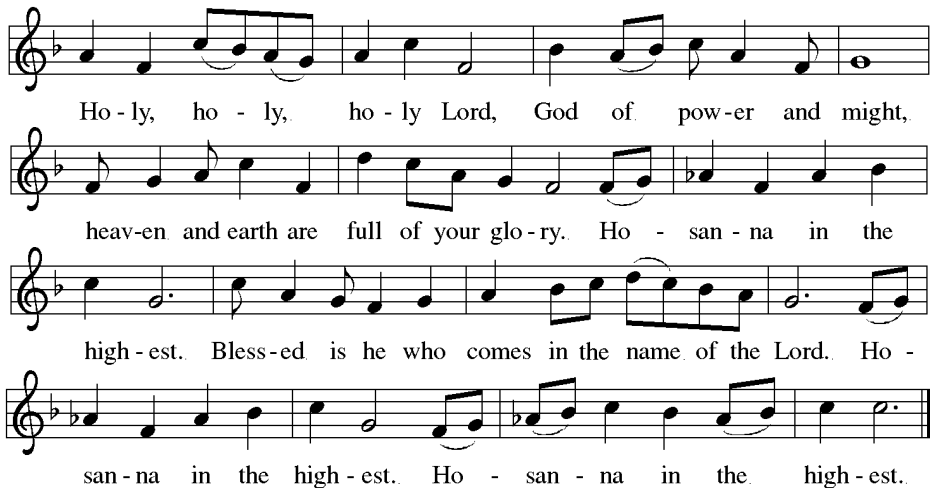
\* DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## \*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comfort your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages  
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love  
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
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.

Until his glorious Advent, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

**A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

**A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **A: Amen**

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

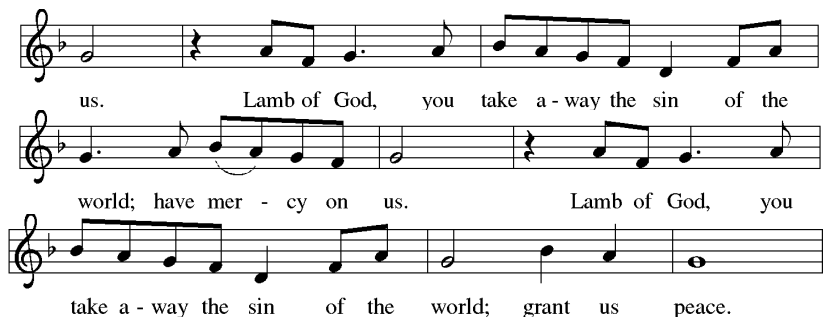
### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

### \*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



## A NOTE ON COMMUNION WAFERS



To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain 15ppm gluten or less (The

US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results.

If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

## COMMUNION

L: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

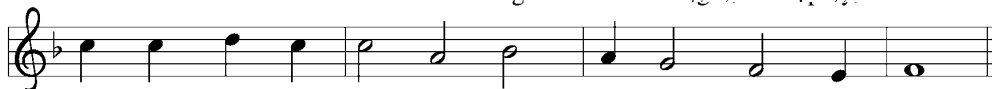
(ELW 272)

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.  
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

## \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

A: Amen.

## \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Nunc Dimittis* (Now, Lord)



Now, Lord, 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.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. A: Amen.

# SENDING

## \*SENDING OF COMMUNION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*You may be seated.*

## \*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

## \*BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN: "Canticle of the Turning"

(ELW 723)



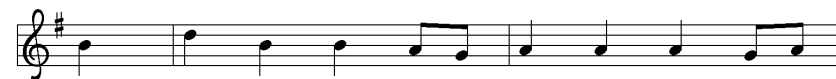
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: "Nous Allane Ma Mie"**

(Raymond Haan)

Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are given in honor or memory of the following:

*In memory of Ed and Helen Magnuson*—by Karen Magnuson

*In memory of Herb and Grace Williams*—by Roger Williams

*In honor of Marilyn Niemann*—by Lloyd Niemann

*In memory of my husband Malcolm “Mac” Hummel*—by Martha Hummel

*In honor of my mother Martha Hummel, and in memory of my dad Malcolm “Mac” Hummel*  
—by Morgen Hummel

*In honor of our children and grandchildren*—by Ann and Art Reede

*In memory of Diane and Ted Kemmerer*—by Linda and Jeff Muthler

*In memory of Freda Muthler, and in honor of Fred Muthler*—by Linda and Jeff Muthler

*In memory of our parents*—by Delorse and Joe Homan

*In memory of Don and Helen “Libby” Johnson*—by Paul Johnson

*In memory of Sheldon and Lois Corl*—by Cinda Corl

*In memory of parents and grandparents*—by Michelle and Whitney McMullen

*In honor of Whitney*—by Michelle McMullen

*In memory of Paul and June Bird*—by Eleanor Bird

*In memory of George and Grace Horn*—by Edna McCauley

*In memory of my husband Bob Hemman*—by Sandee Hemman

*In memory of our parents*—by Debbie and Ronald Strouse

*In memory of my mother Claudia Tomkiel*—by Pastor Paul Tomkiel

*In memory of Sally Kolesar*—by Linda and Jeff Muthler

*In memory of Sally Kolesar and Eileen Butchkoski*—by Linda and Ike Rosensteel



## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, December 22

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55 (52)  
Psalm 80:1-7 (7) {alternate}  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

### Monday, December 23

Micah 4:6-8  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Luke 1:46b-55

### Tuesday, December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96 (11)  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

### Wednesday, December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97 (11)  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

### Thursday, December 26

2 Chronicles 24:17-24  
Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60  
Psalm 148

### Friday, December 27

Proverbs 8:32-36  
John 21:19b-24  
Psalm 148  
Genesis 1:1-15, 26-31  
Psalm 116:12-19 (15) 1  
John 1:1—2:2  
John 21:20-25

### Saturday, December 28

Isaiah 54:1-13  
Revelation 21:1-7  
Psalm 148



## SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel  
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Tingle  
Organist..... James Rearick  
Musician.....Morgen Hummel  
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan  
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

## ABOUT ST. PAUL

### PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

### MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,  
and serve community.

### CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

## OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.  
[Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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