



# ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

# WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

We are happy to have you here!

## HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND, SIT, OR SPEAK

Whenever you see an asterisk (\*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.

You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

## HOW TO SING HYMNS IN HARMONY

To save space in printing the bulletin, we usually limit what is printed to the melody. If you'd like to sing in harmony, the hymn numbers are listed in our bulletin so you can open the red books in the pews (called ELWs).

## WE ARE AN OPEN COMMUNION CONGREGATION

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

## HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US



Offerings can be made online at [stpaulpgm.org/give](https://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.

## 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.

# **GATHERING**

*The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship*

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**PRELUDE** — *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.*

## **\*CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

*This contemporary version of an ancient proclamation places the birth of Christ into human history yet avoids a literalistic accounting of time. The last phrase makes it clear that the nativity of Jesus is not only then but now, today, in our own time.*

P: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

# \*GATHERING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful

(ELW 283)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## \*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.**

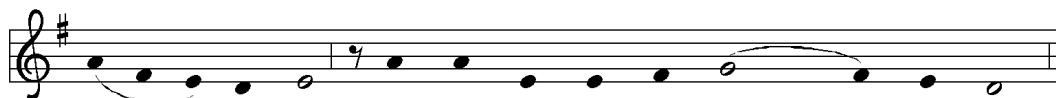
**\*KYRIE** – O Come O Come Emmanuel (verses 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)

(ELW 257)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

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

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

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*

## HYMN OF PRAISE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

(ELW 289)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM: "*Carol of Peace*"

(By: Herb Frombach & Patti Drennan)

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

*Isaiah addresses these words to the parts of Israel that were particularly close to foreign powers and to trade routes, and therefore particularly vulnerable to invasion and oppression. These people are especially in need of assurance that God's promises of safety and of a strong, protective ruler would be fulfilled.*

- <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

## SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

*In the book of Titus, the apostle encourages the young church to hold fast to the faith, avoid behavior that would needlessly offend outsiders, and live at unity with each other. He grounds this behavior in God's grace shown in the Incarnation of Jesus.*

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!* (ELW 270)

*Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia.*



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,



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.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!



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



## **\*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:1-14 [15-20]**

*Luke describes how God arranges things to mesh with the divine intention. An edict involving the whole empire forces Joseph and Mary to have their child in Bethlehem (David's home town) rather than Nazareth. The child is laid in a manger, where the shepherds find him, bringing an end to Isaiah's complaint: "the donkey knows its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." (1:3)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

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

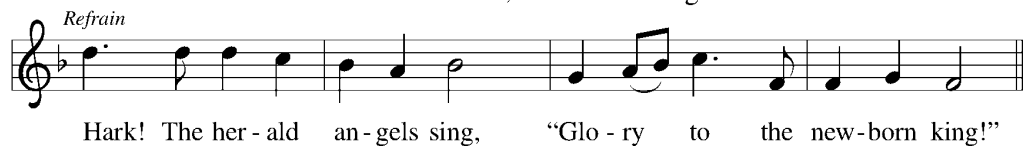
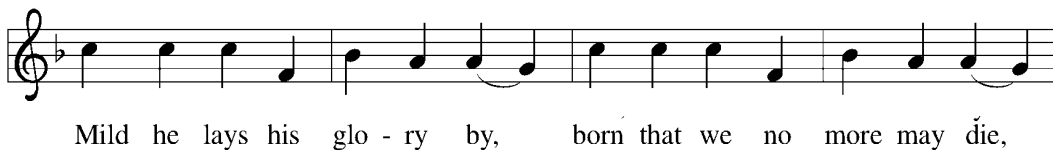
<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.]

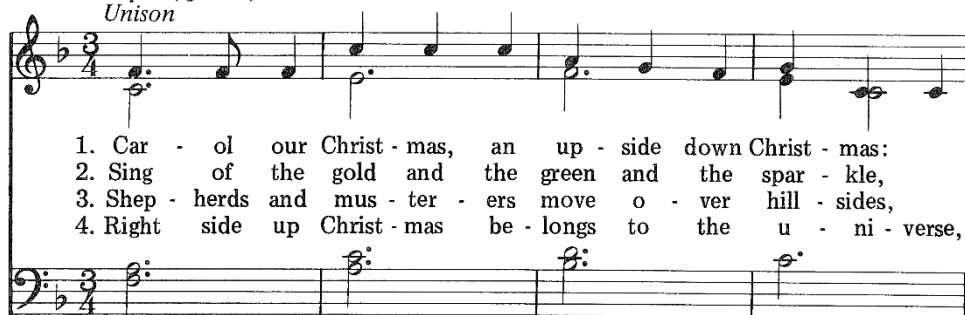
P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**



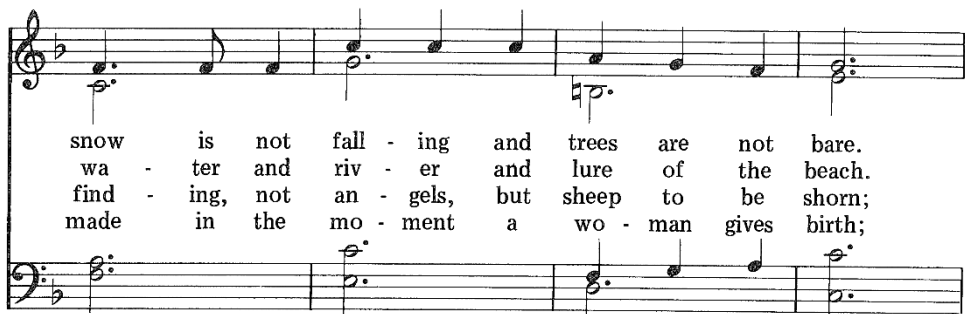
## SERMON

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Carol our Christmas"

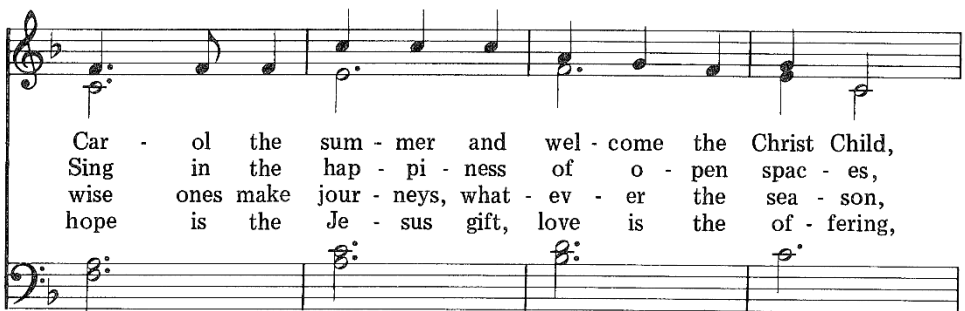
With spirit (♩. = 56)  
Unison



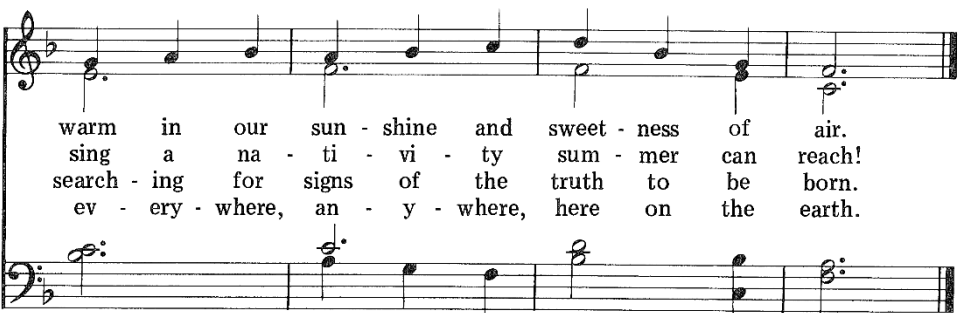
1. Car - ol our Christ - mas, an up - side down Christ - mas:  
2. Sing of the gold and the green and the spar - kle,  
3. Shep - herds and mus - ter - ers move o - ver hill - sides,  
4. Right side up Christ - mas be - longs to the u - ni - verse,



snow is not fall - ing and trees are not bare.  
wa - ter and riv - er and lure of the beach.  
find - ing, not an - gels, but sheep to be shorn;  
made in the mo - ment a wo - man gives birth;



Car - ol the sum - mer and wel - come the Christ Child,  
Sing in the hap - pi - ness of o - pen spac - es,  
wise ones make jour - neys, what - ev - er the sea - son,  
hope is the Je - sus gift, love is the of - fering,



warm in our sun - shine and sweet - ness of air.  
sing a na - ti - vi - ty sum - mer can reach!  
search - ing for signs of the truth to be born.  
ev - ery - where, an - y - where, here on the earth.

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## **\*INVITATION TO BAPTISM**

### **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one 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 and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

*\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares (*especially in . . . specific instances of conflict may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**A: Your mercy is great.**

L: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**A: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

## MEAL

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY: "What Child Is This

(ELW 296)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **A: Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

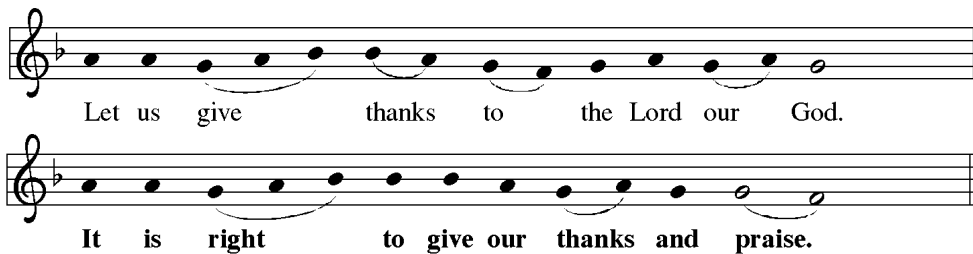
\* DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



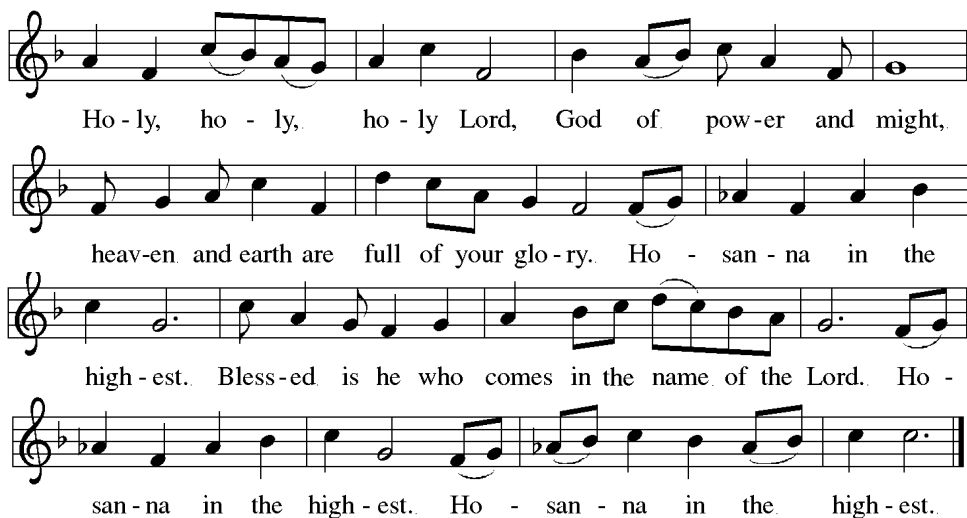
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



#### \*PROPER 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 comforted 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



#### \*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.

Together we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**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.**

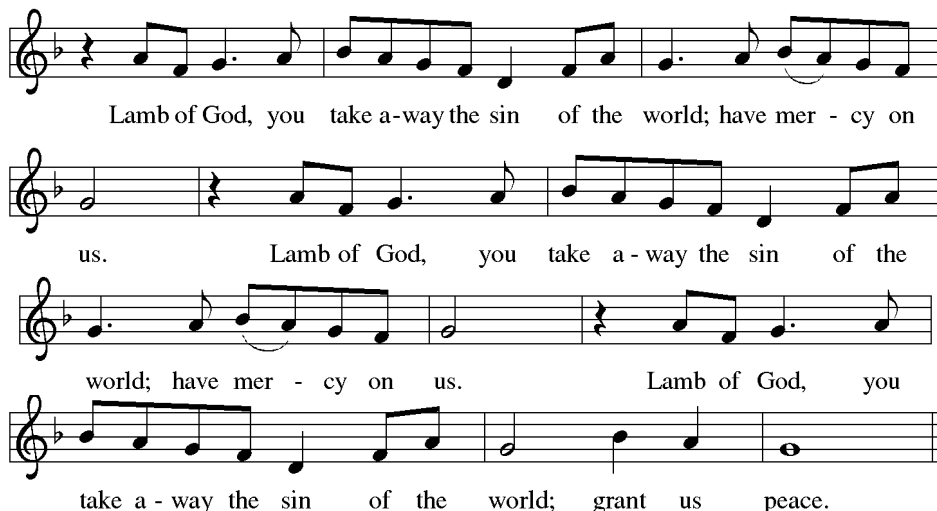
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into time of trial,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
forever and ever. Amen.**



## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

### \*LAMB OF GOD



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

## COMMUNION INFORMATION

*This evening we will commune with wafers and individual cups. Receive the wafer from the pastor, and then go to either the left or right, pick up a plastic cup on the table (grape juice is available in the center of the tray). Go to the communion assistant, present your empty plastic cup to receive wine or show your already filled cup of grape juice. After you have communed, place the empty cup in the next tray after the communion assistant.*

*If you do not want to commune today but would prefer to receive a blessing, please hold your bulletin in front of you as a sign to the pastor of your desire.*

*If you cannot physically make it forward but would still like to receive communion, please inform the ushers and it will be brought to you.*

*The pastor will say: The body of Christ, given/broken for you.*

*The communion assistant will say: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*Some optional traditional responses are: **Amen** or **Thanks be to God** or **Thank you**.*

## COMMUNION

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

# COMMUNION HYMNS: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

(ELW 276)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

# "Away in a Manger"

(ELW 277)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

(ELW 290)

### Refrain



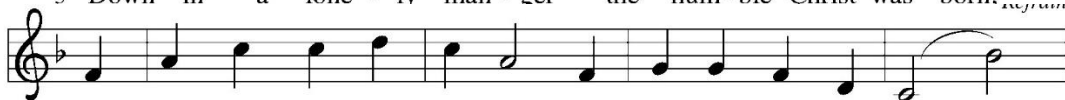
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born:



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

## \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **A: Amen.**

## \*CANDLE LIGHTING

*The ushers will be the first to receive fire and will bring the flames down the aisles. When you are using a traditional candle make sure that **the unlit candle is the one turned sideways**. Do not lift the lit candle to light your neighbor's. Please wait to extinguish the candles until the postlude.*

P: In the beginning was the Word,

AM: When God began to create the heavens and the earth.

P: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

AM: the earth was without shape or form and shadows covered the face of the deep while a spirit from God swept over the face of the waters.

P: The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

AM: God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

P: What came into being through him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines through the shadows, and the shadows do not overcome it.

AM: And God saw that the light was good.

P: The true light, which shines on all people, was coming into the world. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become God's children, born not from blood or from human desire or passion, but born from God.

AM: Then God said, 'Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.' So God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them; male and female God created them.

P: The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

AM: God saw everything he had made, and indeed it was supremely good.

P: From the fullness of the Word made flesh we have all received grace upon grace.

*"Silent Night, Holy Night!"*

(ELW 281)



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem!"*

(ELW 279)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

(ELW 282)



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## SENDING

### **\*SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*The Pastor prays a prayer for members to bring communion to fellow Christian siblings who could not attend worship this morning.*

### **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: "Joy to the World"

(ELW 267)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## \*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



## **DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday, December 21**

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **Monday, December 22**

Isaiah 33:17-22  
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20  
Luke 1:46b-55

### **Tuesday, December 23**

2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29  
Galatians 3:6-14  
Luke 1:46b-55

### **Wednesday, December 24**

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

### **Thursday, December 25**

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

### **Friday, December 26**

Wisdom 4:7-15  
Acts 7:59-8:8  
Psalm 148

### **Saturday, December 27**

Proverbs 8:22-31  
1 John 5:1-12  
Psalm 148

*The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God in honor or memory of the following...*

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

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

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

*In memory of our parents*—by Ann and Art Reede

*In memory of our parents*—by Cinda and Paul Johnson

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

*In memory of Tom and Norma Telenko*—by Jen and Jacob Heller

*In memory of Bill and Linda Heller*—by Jen and Jacob Heller

*In memory of Dr. Anthony Leach*—by Jen and Jacob Heller

*In honor of my wife Marilyn Niemann*—by Lloyd Niemann

*In memory of my parents*—by Edna McCauley

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

*In memory of Merle Neff*—by Katie Neff

*In honor and memory of St. Paul musicians*—by Michelle McMullen

*In memory of Jim Rearick*—by Michelle McMullen

*In memory of my parents*—by Michelle McMullen

*In honor of Michelle McMullen*—by Joe and Delorse Homan

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

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

*In honor of my mother Martha Hummel and in memory of my father Malcolm Hummel*—by Morgen Hummel

*In memory of my husband Malcolm Hummel*—by Martha Hummel

If you purchased a poinsettia, you may take it home after the Christmas Eve Service.



## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel  
Assisting Minister..... Eleanor Bird  
Musicians.....Michelle McMullen & Jacob Heller  
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan  
Communion Assistants.....Morgen Hummel & Karen Magnuson  
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 Conestoga-Susquehannock people, where we gather. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, 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.

Find out more about the Conestoga-Susquehannock at [www.conestogasusquehannocktribe.com](http://www.conestogasusquehannocktribe.com)

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