



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# A Service of Lessons and Carols





Prelude

"Pastoral"

Arr. Dale Wood

Bell Choir & Organ

Opening Hymn

*Once in Royal David's City*

ELW 269

## Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



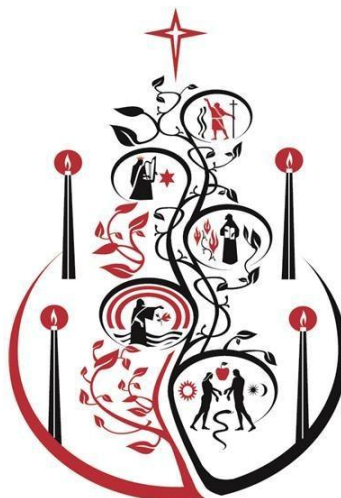
where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876



## Responsive Prayer

P: Family of faith, God is at work!  
C: **God is healing and creating,**  
P: redeeming and dreaming,  
C: **calling and sending,**  
P: listening and loving.  
C: **Yes, indeed, God is at work!**  
P: So may we worship our God who never gives up.  
C: **May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
C: **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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Advent Call to Worship and Wreath Lighting

P: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?  
C: **We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.**  
P: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

*Light candle.*

P: And all God's Children said,  
C: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## First Lesson Gen: 3: 8-15, 17-19

Reader: Deb Waldrop

Sin enters the World, when Adam and Eve disobey God

Carol: "Durch Adams Fall" by Gottfried Homilius  
(organ solo)

**Second Lesson Gen 22: 15-18****Reader: Weston Bossert**

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth  
be blessed.

Carol: "The God of Abraham Praise"

ELW 831

**Third Lesson Mark 13:24-27, 32-37****Reader: Patty Walker**

The Coming of the Son of Man

Carol: "Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending" David Williams (Choir)

**Fourth lesson Micah 5:2-4****Reader: Tucker Bossert**

The prophet Micah foretells the Glory of Little Bethlehem

Carol: "Away in a Manger"

1<sup>st</sup> Verse *Children*

**Fifth lesson Luke 1:26-38****Reader: Bob Bossert**

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary

Carol: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

(Bells)

**Sixth Lesson Matthew 1:18-23****Reader: Jacob Smith**

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Carol: "Mary's Lament" by Brendan Graham

(Choir)

**Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16****Reader: Caden Smith**

The shepherds go to the manger

Carol: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

(Bells Solo)

**Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11****Reader: Arlene Bossert**

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Carol: ""The people Who Walk in Darkness" Pepper Choplin (Choir)

**Ninth Lesson John 1:11-14**

**Reader: Pr. Ashlin Marchese**

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

Carol: "O Magnum Mysterium" by Lauridsen

Connor Brown Solo

**The Offering**

**Offering Hymn      Good Christian Men, Rejoice      Arr. G. Lanier      Connor Brown**

**\*Offertory Anthem      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      ELW 885**

A: Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky,

**C: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

**Closing Prayer and Benediction**

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**ELW 270**

**Postlude – Organ**

# The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand  
 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace  
 4 Your prom - ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



"I Am the One I Am"—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake—its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.

Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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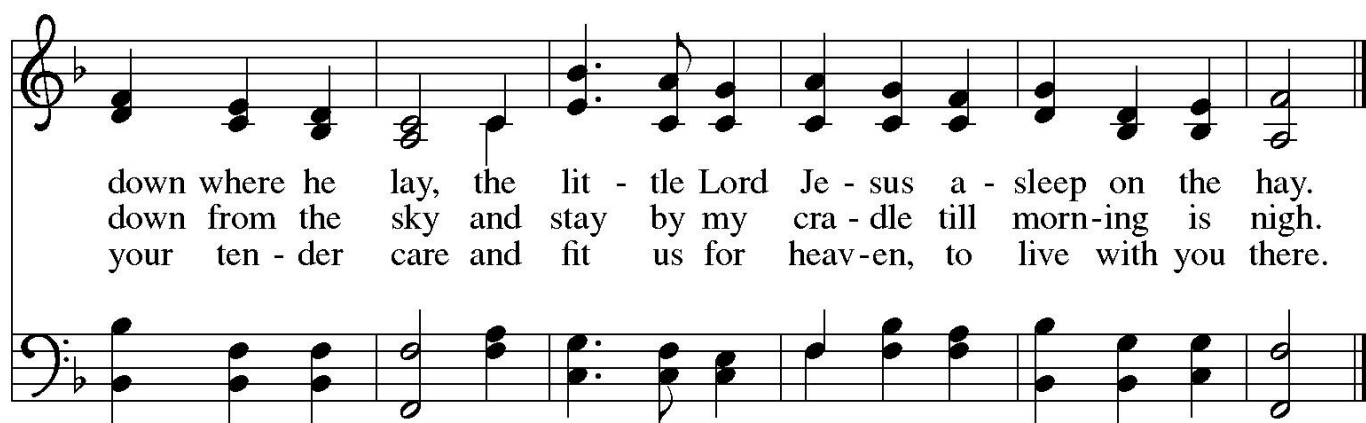
# Away in a Manger



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

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



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



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all 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!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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



# Christmas Worship 2025

Blue Christmas Worship:  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
6:30 PM

Christmas by Candlelight:  
Wednesday, December 24,  
2025

6:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Christmas Worship & Brunch:  
Thursday, December 25, 2025  
11:00 AM

# Announcements

## WE PRAY FOR...

- Rosemary Rizzo - Tony Rizzo - Erin Jankowski -  
- Dee Marinov - Diane Busdiecker - Elaine Wolffer -  
- Brian Freeburg - Maryann and Chip Orlando -

George Troester - Son of Maureen Sieteski  
Maya Chakraborty  
Katherine Sikorski  
Brooke - Great-niece of Annette Berg  
Angela Roeser  
Emily - Niece of Patty Walker  
Frank Senn - Brother of Nancy Noble  
Janice Darveau - Friend of Kathy Busdiecker  
David Jinks - Sarah Kuehpus' Father  
Pete & Gayle Ciruolo - Vince Ciruolo's cousin  
Jessica Ekman - Friend of Karl and Judy Kristoff

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Blue Christmas Worship:  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m.

Christmas by Candlelight:  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
6:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Worship & Brunch:  
Thursday, December 25, 2025  
11:00 a.m.



Altar flowers this week are  
given by Pastor Ashlin  
Marchese, in memory of those  
whom we remember this  
holiday season.



SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



# 2025 Angel Tree Thank You

School #74 in Buffalo received 383 gift wrapped books from Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Williamsville. This year, Judy Bradbury from Trinity donated 197 books and our own Kim and Jon Olsen donated 187 books! Thanks again for their generosity in giving.

Thank you also for our "helpers" who wrapped all those books- Greta Kettle from Trinity and Nancy Noble from St. Paul's! Well done ladies!

This year St. Paul's parishioners donated 206 hats, mittens, and scarves to keep the children at School #74 warm and cozy. Many of the students were new to this part of the country and had no warm outerwear. This year so many hats and scarves were handmade and/or knitted by our members and were beautiful!

Thank you all!

Lastly, many school supplies were given and everyone's generosity did not go unnoticed!

Thank you, Sue, Hayden, for coordinating Trinity's effort and teaming up with St. Paul's to make the 2025 Angel Tree Project successful.

Thank you, THANK YOU ALL!

Arlene Bossert, St. Paul's Coordinator

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**COVER IMAGE: PAUL OMEN**





# Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God,  
we need bread and we need  
laughter.

We need music and we need a  
hand to hold.

We need a chair to sit in and we  
need work to do.

But maybe more than anything,  
we need your Word and a reason to  
hope.

So move through this space today  
and speak to us as only you can.  
Speak a word of hope deep into our  
weary bones.

For we need bread and we need  
laughter,  
but most of all, we need you.  
Amen.

**PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESI**  
PREACHER/PRESIDER

**PATRICK GARD**  
ORGANIST

**DEBORAH WALDROP**  
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

**JOE BROWN, KARL KRISTOFF**  
USHERS

**ARLENE BOSSERT**  
ALTAR GUILD