

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who causes the angels to sing, who offers the hope of peace on earth, and who comes to us as Word made flesh. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us be bold in our desire to confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have not shared as we could have.

We have ignored what is wrong and unjust.

We have been quick to anger and slow to forgive.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins.

Open our hearts so that our lives might reflect your abundant unconditional love born among us, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

In and through Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, humbly born of Mary, your sins have been forgiven. Let us rejoice and be glad. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "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,

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!

Refrain

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

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A Reading from 1 Samuel

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

(1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148(Read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

A Reading from Colossians

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

(Luke 2:41-52)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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;
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by
grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us to find our proper place in your good creation, that we live in service to you
and treasure the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide us in our relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and
show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in
any need this day. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful
God, **receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to forgive one another and teach how to bind all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for St. Stephen and all your saints, who gave their lives to tell the story of your love. Help us to be faithful in every moment of our lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

Holy God, Creator of all that is good, in the beginning, your word brought life into the whole world. In the fullness of time, you send your living Word, born of Mary, to shine in the darkness so that we might become your children.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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

In the manger and upon this table, Christ is truly here. Come and see!

***INSTRUCTIONS:** If you wish to receive the Sacrament, please move into the center aisle when instructed to do so. Today Holy Communion will be distributed as individual packets which contain both a bread wafer and a small cup of grape juice.*

When you stand before the Pastor, please open your hand to receive your Holy Communion packet. After you have returned to your pew by the side aisle, you may pause to eat the bread and drink the cup. Those unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament may receive in their pews.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please stand before the Pastor and say, "A blessing."

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for this feast of love. As we have shared in this heavenly meal, help us to share ourselves, our time, and our possessions with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

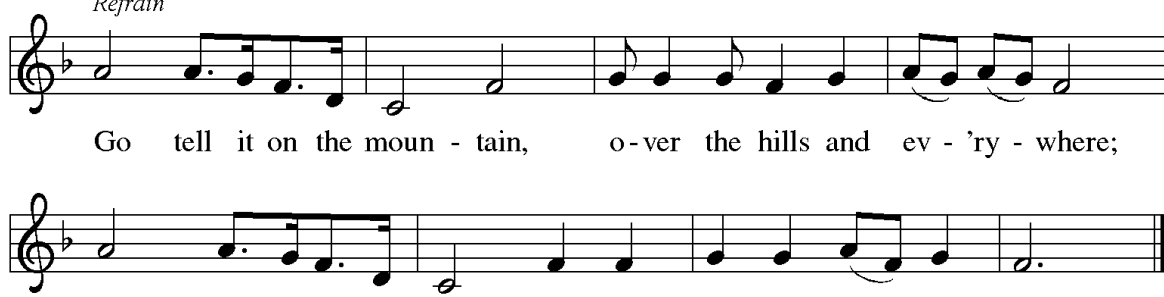
SENDING

BLESSING


Almighty God, fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we may abide in faith and abound in hope,
through † Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

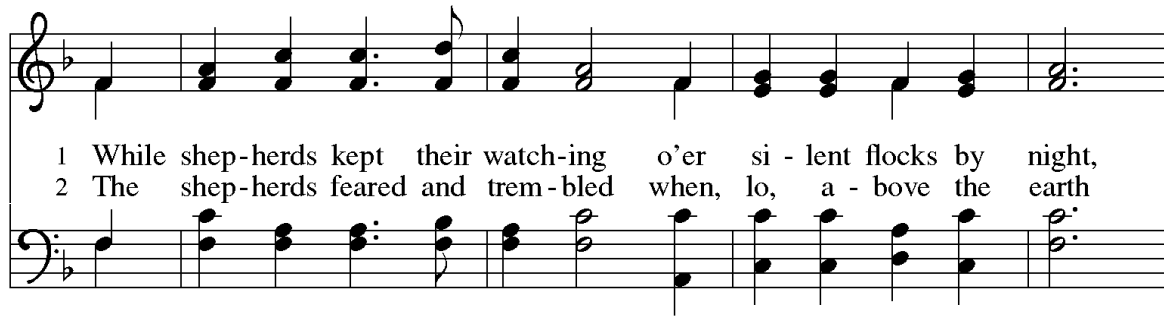
Refrain



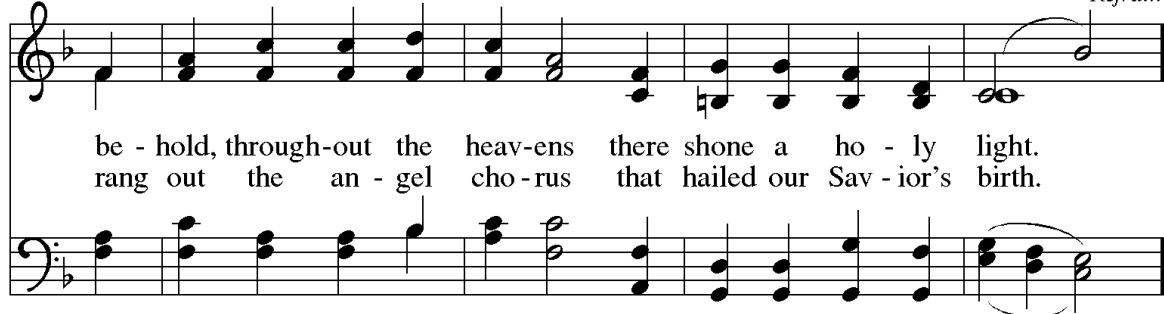
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



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



Refrain



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.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ and be glad!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Guy R. and Frances F. Lengel by James Lengel and the Lengel Family

Bulletins are given in honor of Karen Travor’s birthday by Barb Sterner

Introduction to the day: On the first Sunday of Christmas, we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/26/21)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; LECTOR: Jason Swick

COMMUNION ASST.: Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (01/02/22)

8:00 AM

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: TBA

COMMUNION ASST.: TBA

10:30 AM

GREETER: TBA; USHER: TBA; LECTOR: TBA

COMMUNION ASST.: TBA

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, December 26 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Saturday, January 1 5:30 PM NEW YEAR’S DAY
No Worship Scheduled

Sunday, January 2 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY, PLEASE TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA PLANT(S) WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE CHURCH TODAY!

HYMN OF THE DAY “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
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:
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.”
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 all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to host a Sunday School for children every second Sunday of the month. Children ages 1-10 are invited to join us during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 9, 2022, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. Teenagers are also invited to participate as helpers. Please talk with Sara Eger or call her at 570-394-3522 for more information.