

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 and Almighty God,

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

We have not shared the gifts you have given to us.

We have not been good stewards of your creation.

We have been quick to anger and slow to forgive.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace.

In Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, all your sins have been forgiven. Let us proclaim God's good news and sing for joy.

Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom God favors! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

[See back of bulletin]

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

**O Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, shine your wisdom into our hearts and open our minds to your Word, that we may act according to your good will and live 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)

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

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

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

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

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**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 [Mary and Joseph] 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
[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

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth,
and all people.

A brief silence.

Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide all teachers to grow in faith
and fill all students with holy curiosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect the habitats of all wild animals. Increase our care for the natural world and
help us be good stewards of your creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Raise up men and women who will lead with compassion and patience. Let your
peace rule in every land and bring an end all conflict and strife. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Keep watch over all who travel. Bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Let the living Word of God dwell among us. In these difficult times, clothe us in love and daily move us to forgive. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Draw us into everlasting praise and joy. Keep us united with all who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

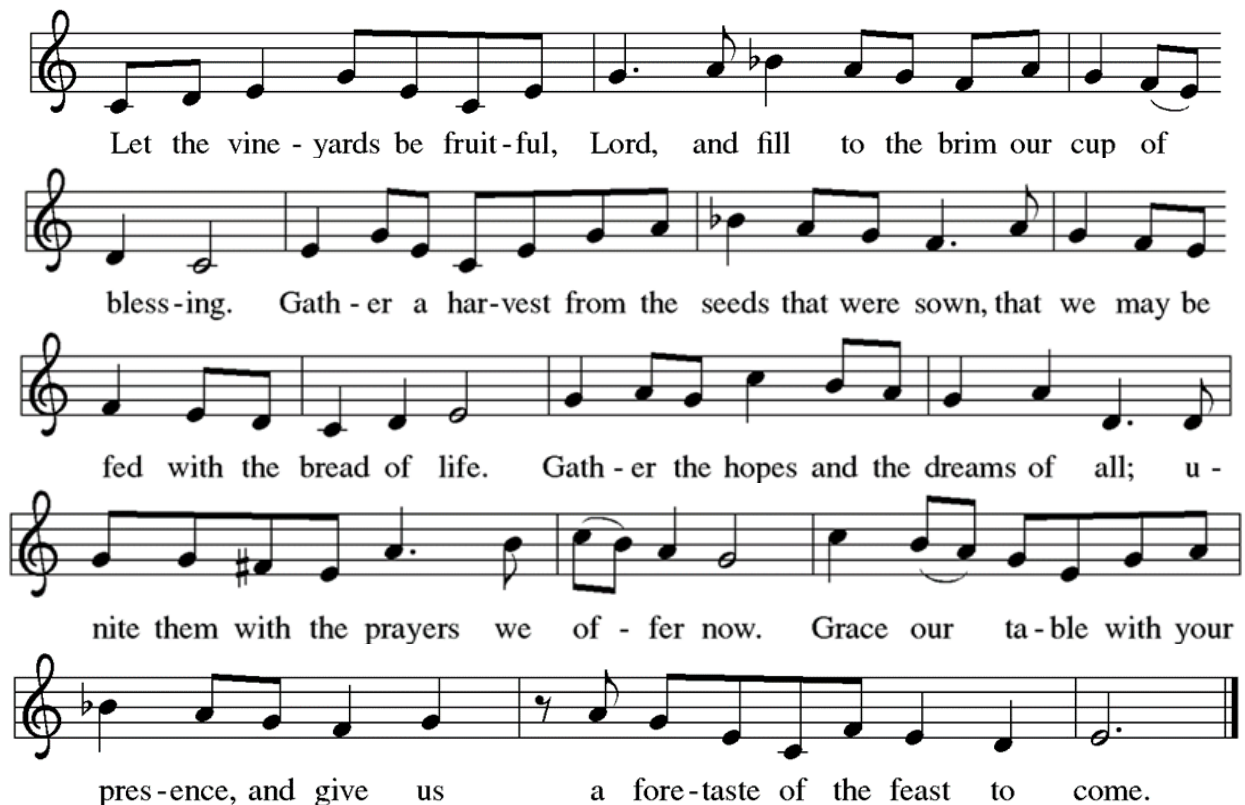
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM)

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Were You There on that Christmas Night" N. Sleeth

OFFERTORY HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, we offer the gifts of our hearts and lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

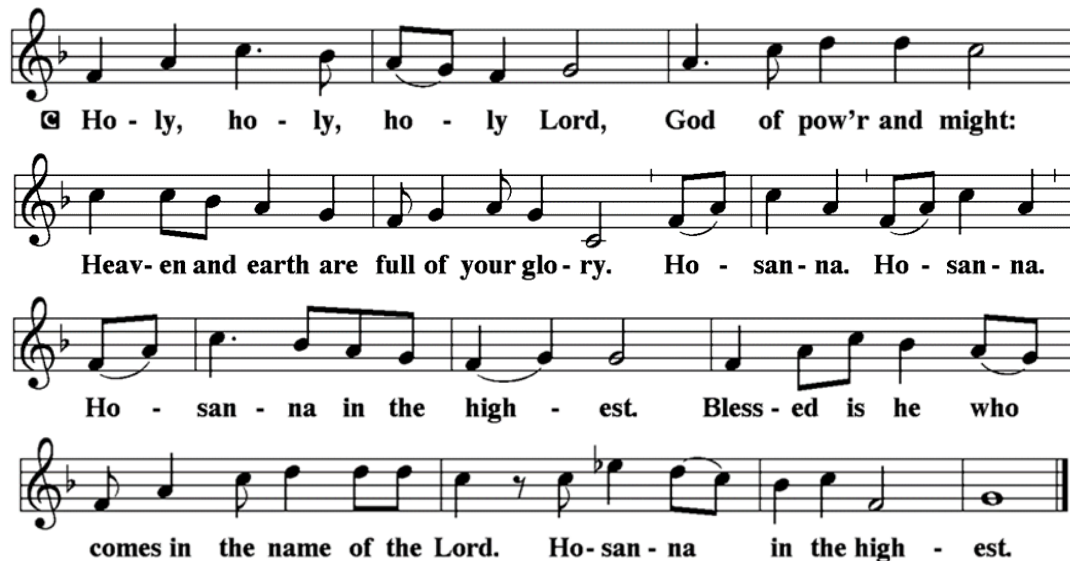
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. 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 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'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.

INSTRUCTIONS

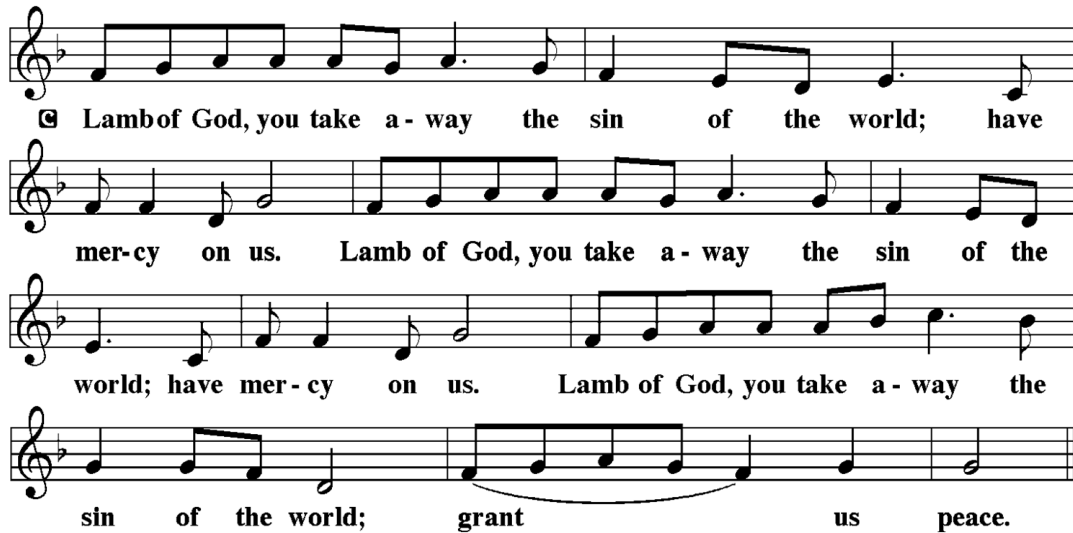
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it.

If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament, and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Today we will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the church and then with those on the lectern side of the church.

AGNUS DEI



♩ 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 HYMN

“Love Has Come”
[See back of bulletin]

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”
[See back of bulletin]

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.

Introduction to the day: On the first Sunday of Christmas, we see Samuel and Jesus, both in the temple, growing in wisdom and favor with God and all humanity. We too have come to God's house to sing and praise God, for we are thankful for our Savior. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/29/29)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Barb Sterner; LECTOR: Gwen Wehr
COMMUNION ASST.: Cindy Ritschel
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (1/5/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Connie Teter
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Tina Butler
COMMUNION ASST.: Becky Smoot
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 16, 2025, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please mark your new calendar for this important meeting! In case of inclement weather (or other emergency), our annual meeting will be held on the following Sunday at the same time.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Evangelism Committee has set the date of Saturday, February 22, 2025, for a “progressive” dinner. Two additional host homes are needed for this annual event. If you would like more information or are willing to volunteer, please contact our church office before December 31.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 29		1 st CHRISTMAS
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday, December 31		NEW YEAR'S EVE
Wednesday, January 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY
		Church Office is closed
Saturday, January 4	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 5		EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
		Deadline for Year-end Reports

The Reverend Cynthia Kennett is leading our worship today. Please welcome her and make her feel at home!

WINTER NATURE SERIES

On Sunday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m., the Forest Stewards of Schuylkill County Conservancy will offer a presentation on the “Guardianship of Trees” in Reidler Hall. This presentation is one part of a three-part series hosted by local churches. Please contact Sue Reier (570-617-3741) for more information.

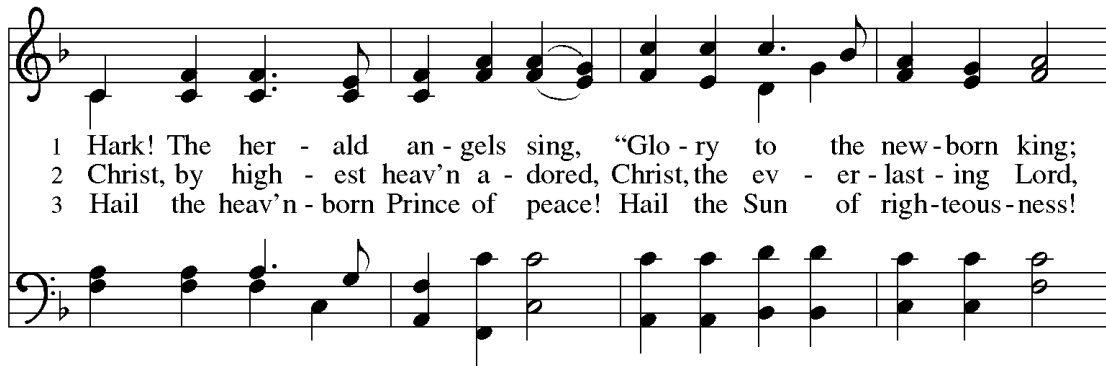
“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will take place Sunday, January 12! Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

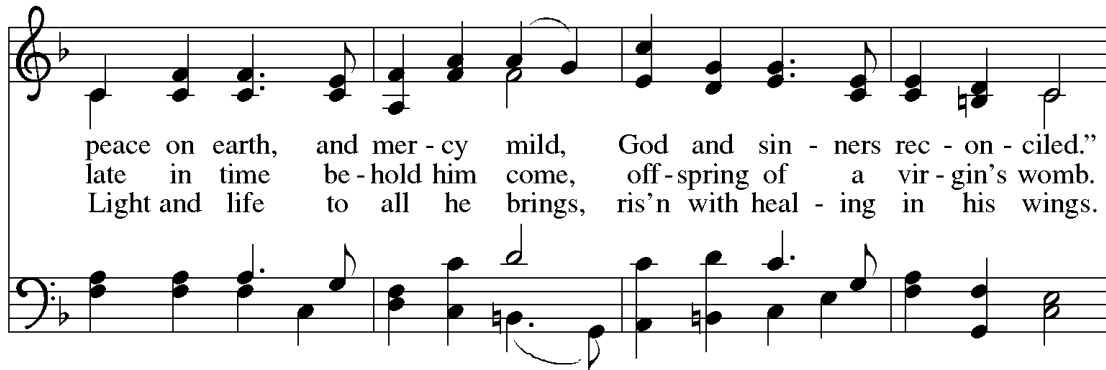
WEATHER CHECK: STAY SAFE!

If you're unsure if worship is still on due to bad weather, just give us a call at (570) 366-2316 and listen to the outgoing message. You can also check our Facebook page for any updates. Stay safe — check before you head out!

GATHERING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



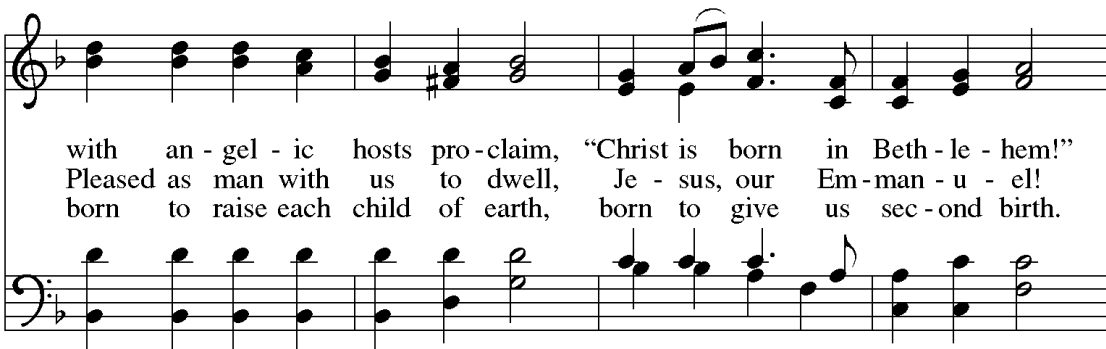
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



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,



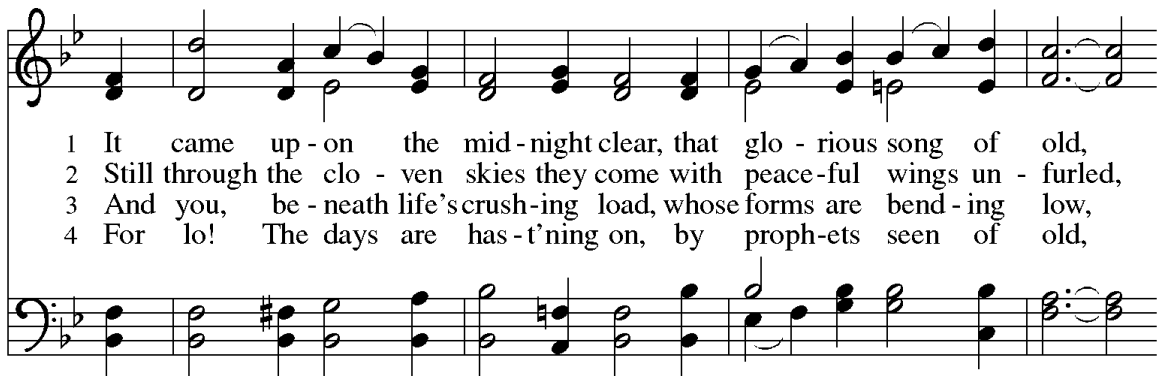
with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

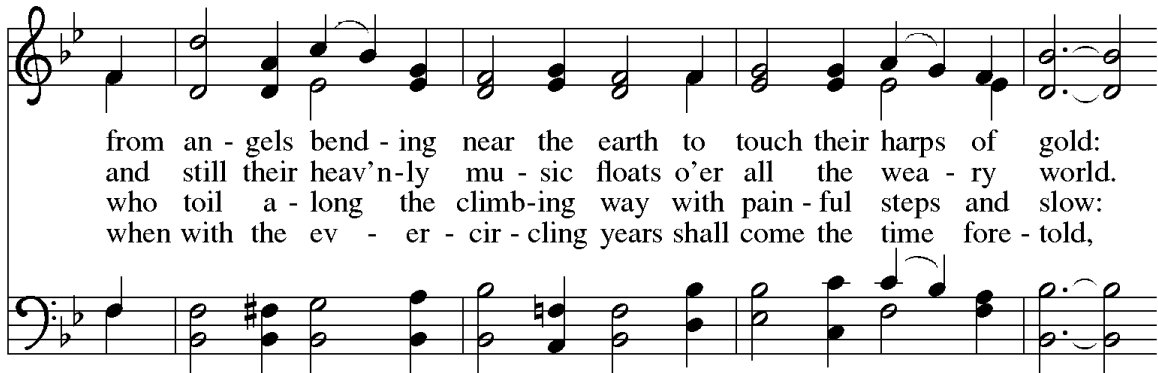


Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

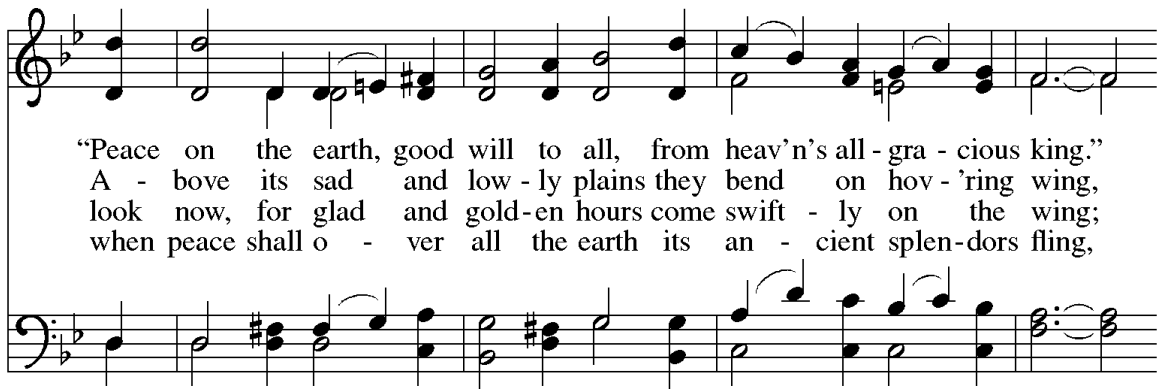
HYMN OF THE DAY “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”



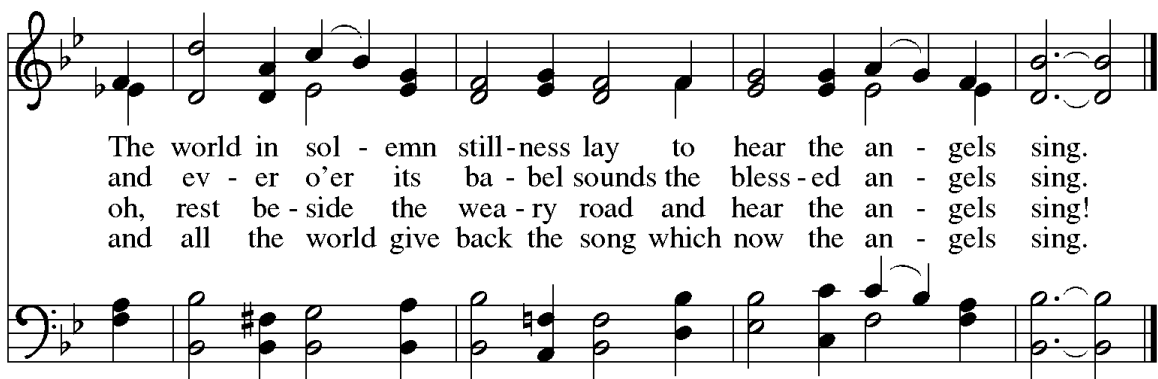
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



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.

ATTENTION: COMMITTEE LEADERS

Your year-end reports for 2024 will be needed by Sunday, January 5, 2025. Please have them completed, proofread, and ready for print by the deadline date. Email your file(s) to: office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Love Has Come”



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

As we reflect and give thanks, we have an opportunity to see how much our generosity helps our church and community. Every donation, big or small, shows our dedication to Christ's teachings of love and service to our neighbors.

Our church needs your support more than ever. Your regular contributions keep our church running, allow us to grow our outreach programs, help those in need, and provide a welcoming space for all. Please consider increasing your giving now - and in the coming year!

GOT INFORMATION?

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to brighten the day of those who can't join us for worship. To keep our list current, we need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home.

If you have new information or address changes, please reach out to any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

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
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

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.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God!