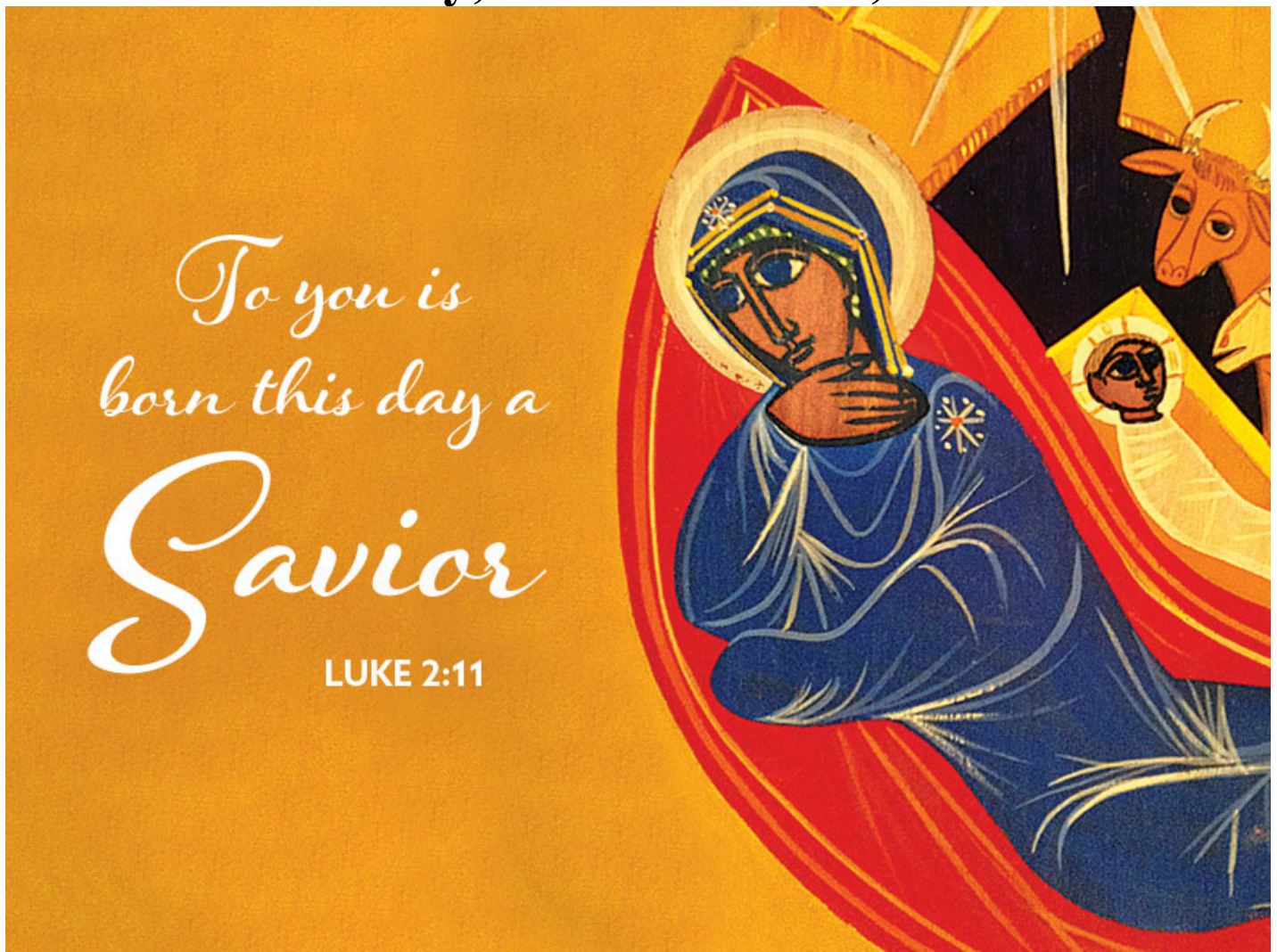


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tuesday, December 24th, 2024



Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

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: Carol Medley- traditional carols
I. Rocking Carol
II. Silent Night
III. Away in a Manger
Thomas Haake, violin

CANDLE LIGHTING

We have watched; we have waited
in hope. *Light the first candle.*
for peace. *Light the second candle.*
in joy! *Light the third candle.*
with love. *Light the fourth candle.*
Now our redemption draws near! *The Christ candle (the center white candle) is lit.*

ENTRANCE HYMN OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ELW 283

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:

Refrain

Oh, come, let us adore him, oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!
C **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**
P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.
C **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**
P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.
C **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

- ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For 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.
- ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- ⁶For 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.
- ⁷His authority shall grow continually, 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.\

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 for them in the inn.

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

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: HARK THE HERALD

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king;
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
 Hail, incarnate deity!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 ris'n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth. Refrain

CREED

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

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

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 Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM: The Little Drummer Boy Katherine K. Davis (1892-1980)
 Sydney Johnson, mezzo-soprano

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

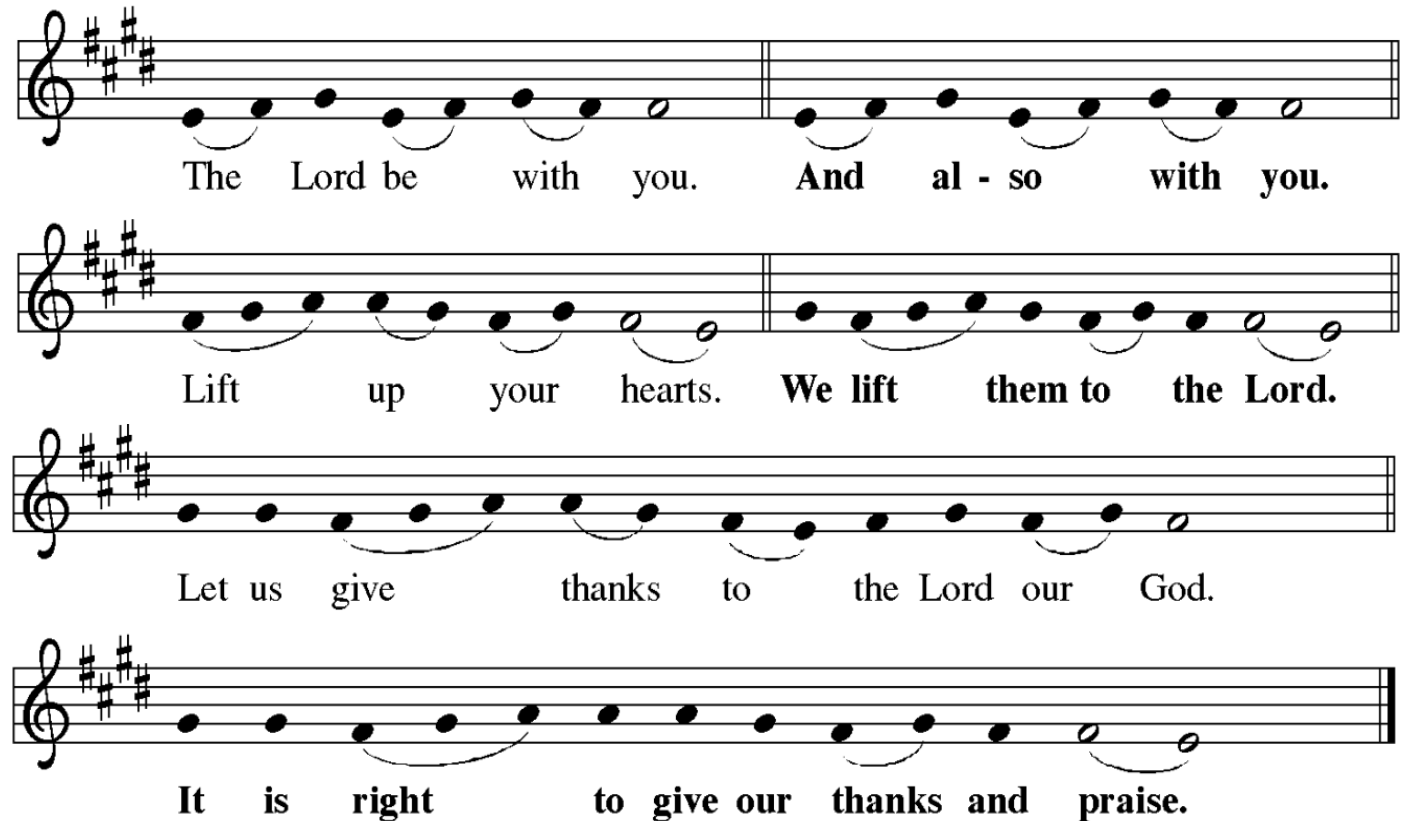
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



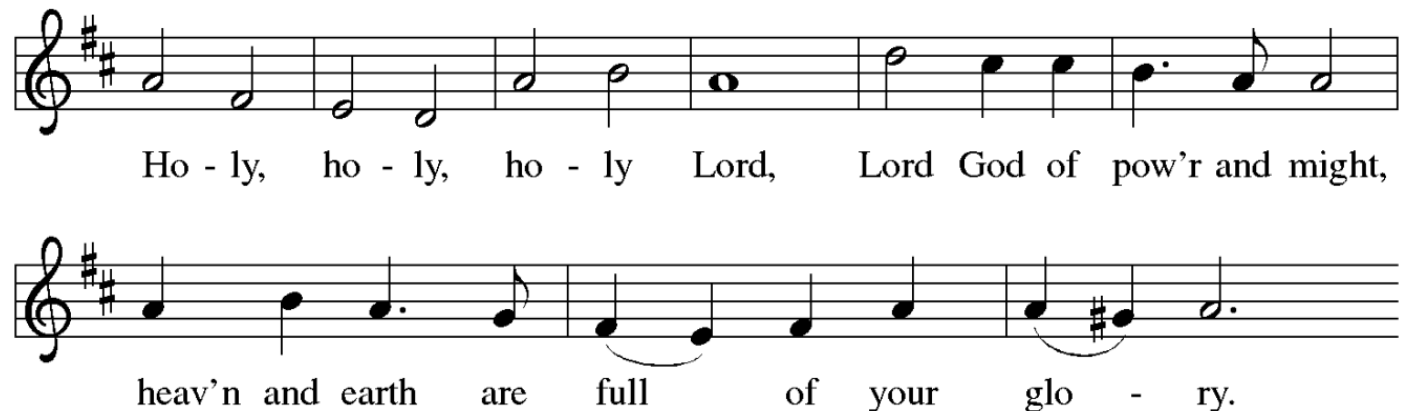
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

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

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

COMMUNION ANTHEM Still, Still, Still arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)
Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On this Christmas Eve we remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil.
(Isaiah 9:2-3)*

Let us pray

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Solo

O Holy Night
Mr. Rambler

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

ELW 281

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

ELW 289

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude **Declamation on GLORIA** **Michael Bedford (b. 1949)**

In our prayers today we will remember

Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Jim Loveday, Rosemary Stephen, Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Mary Martin.



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ENTRANCE HYMN Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283

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HOD Hark the Herald angels sing ELW 270

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CONGREGATIONAL SONG *Silent Night, Holy Night!* ELW 281

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ENDING SONG *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

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Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister

Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music

Dr. Abigail Haake

Assisting Minister

**7 pm Karl Kalk
10:30 pm Scott Larson**

Lector

Sydney Johnson

Greeters

**7 pm Karl Kalk
10:30 Brady & Morgan Rupp**

Communion Assistant

**7 pm Barb Palmer and Gary Collard
10:30 pm Jackie Pritchard and Shane Jackson**

Sacristan

Kathryn Myers

Soundboard

Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream

John Stanko