

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE



December 24, 2025

4:00 and 8:00 pm

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE*

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

***For Sunday, December 28 there will be one service at 9:30 with a coffee hour.**

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Kelli Oliver and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Lionel Goulet, *Lector*
Kerri Frick, *Deacon*
Hollie Schmidt and Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter & Hollie Schmidt, & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

Cover Art:

Liz Valente, *Manger*. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57457>

Thank You to The Nature Connection!

We are so grateful for The Nature Connection's participation in our tradition of inviting a live animal to the early Christmas Eve service. The Nature Connection is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities through the therapeutic use of nature. They offer public programs for children and adults, as well as partner with organizations supporting those with limited access to nature, such as nursing homes, dementia care facilities, youth-at-risk organizations, and adults with disabilities facilities. You can learn more about The Nature Connection, including volunteer opportunities, by checking out their website: <https://www.nature-connection.org/>



ALTAR POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY

The Airasian Family

Kristen Anderson - *in memory of Patricia Anderson, Selmer and Marjorie Aarestad, Eleanor and John Anderson and Tom Reddick*

Stu Bassler - *in memory of loved ones*

Tom Berryman

Marie Breitenbach – *in honor of Grandpa Kropa's birthday*

The Brown Family - *in loving memory of Kenneth and Shirley Brown and Cornelius and Ann Hack*

Sarah Carter

Lisa Chiulli Lay – *in memory of Mary Chiulli and Mary Rufo*

Kim Fechtel and David Osterbur - *in memory of Ed and Lucille Fechtel, beloved grandparents*

Pat Gray - *in memory of John and Dorothy Stanat*

Darby Hering

Bev Hjorth and Thomas Bertschinger - *to the glory of God*

Lisa Kunze and Jeff Schafer - *in memory of Robert Kunze and Allen Schafer*

Shem Krey - *in memory of Tirzah Krey*

Daniel Luft - *in memory of Betty Moses*

Angie Mitchell - *in honor of our loved ones*

Eileen Moyer - *in memory of Grace and Nick*

Naomi and Weldon Nelson – *in memory of loved ones*

Norma Ofsthun and Family - *in the memory of loved ones*

Nicole Rura – *to the glory of God*

Sandy and Mark Walker - *in memory of our parents*

The Turner / White Family - *in memory of Andrew White*

Lydia Zuehsow

**Feel free to take home your poinsettias
after the 8:00 pm service**

When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.

At the ☒, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.

The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

4:00

Concerto for two violins in D minor BWV1043,

2. Largo ma non tanto

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Wiebke Denecke, violin

Felix Denecke-Spakovszky, violin

8:00

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Marie Breitenbach, recorder

WELCOME

* 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!

***GREETING**

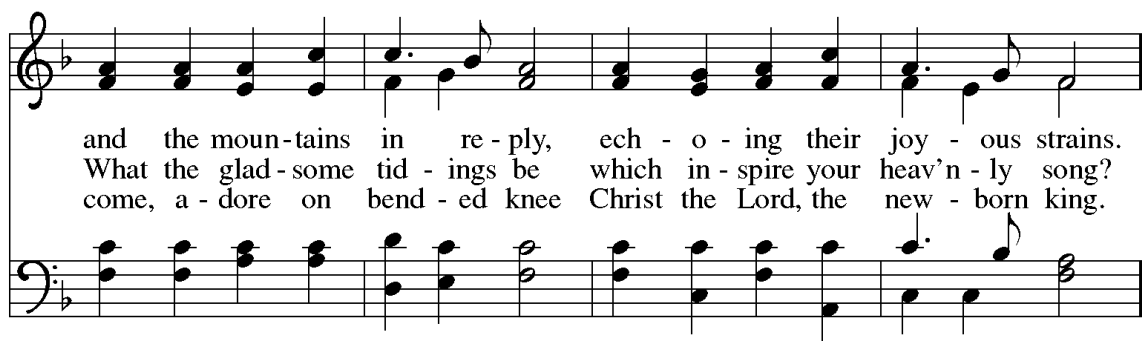
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (*Stanzas 1&3*)

ELW 289

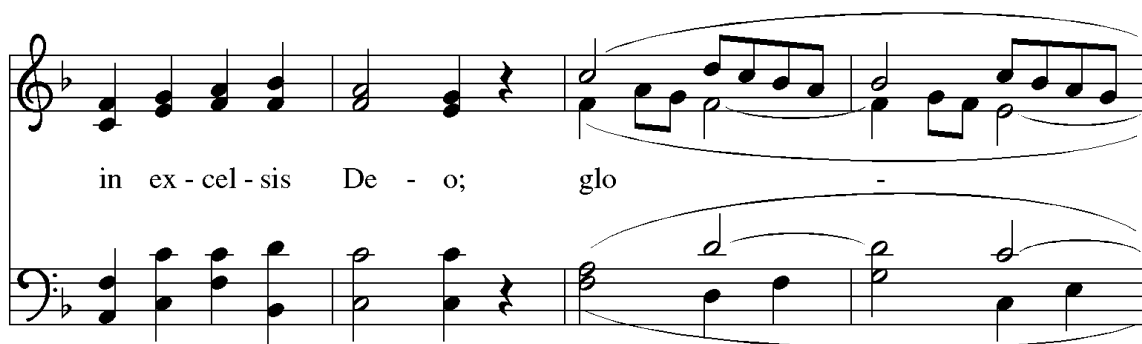
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2—7

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.
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.
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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM HYMN “Joy to the World” is a paraphrase of Psalm 96.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) on a grand staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and joyful, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The lyrics are: 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

SECOND READING

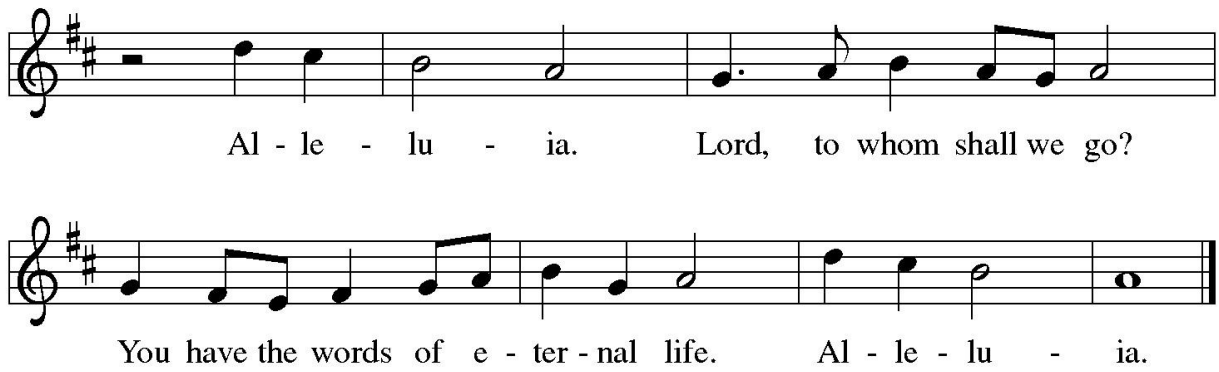
Titus 2:11–14

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL

Luke 2:1—20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

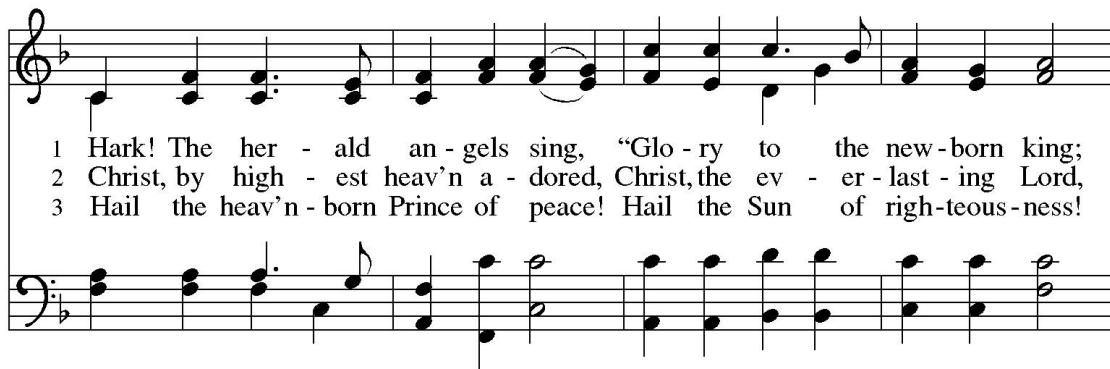
Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good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

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

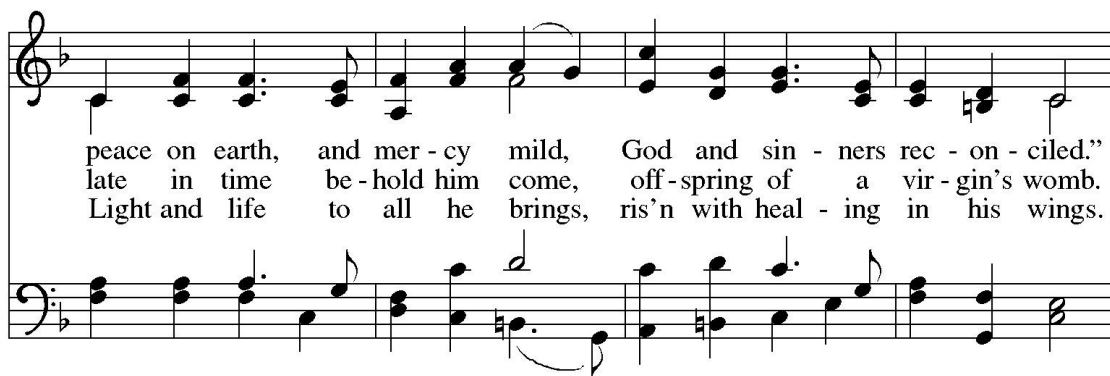
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they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

The gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.



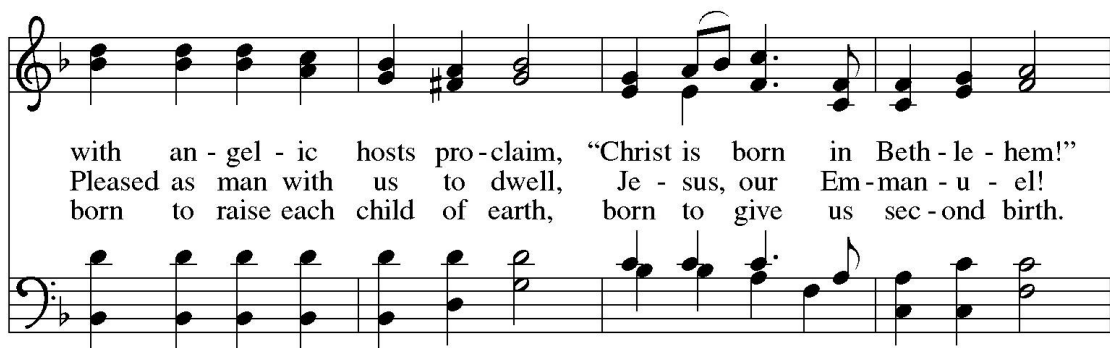
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.



APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

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.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 Bobby, Dan, Diane, George, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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.
Amen.

* PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM (4:00)

Cantique de Noel/O Holy Night

A. Adam (1803-1856)
Bev Hjorth, alto and Thomas Bertschinger, piano

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

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.

OFFERING



You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

* 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 our thanks and praise.

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

We praise you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

We praise you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"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;

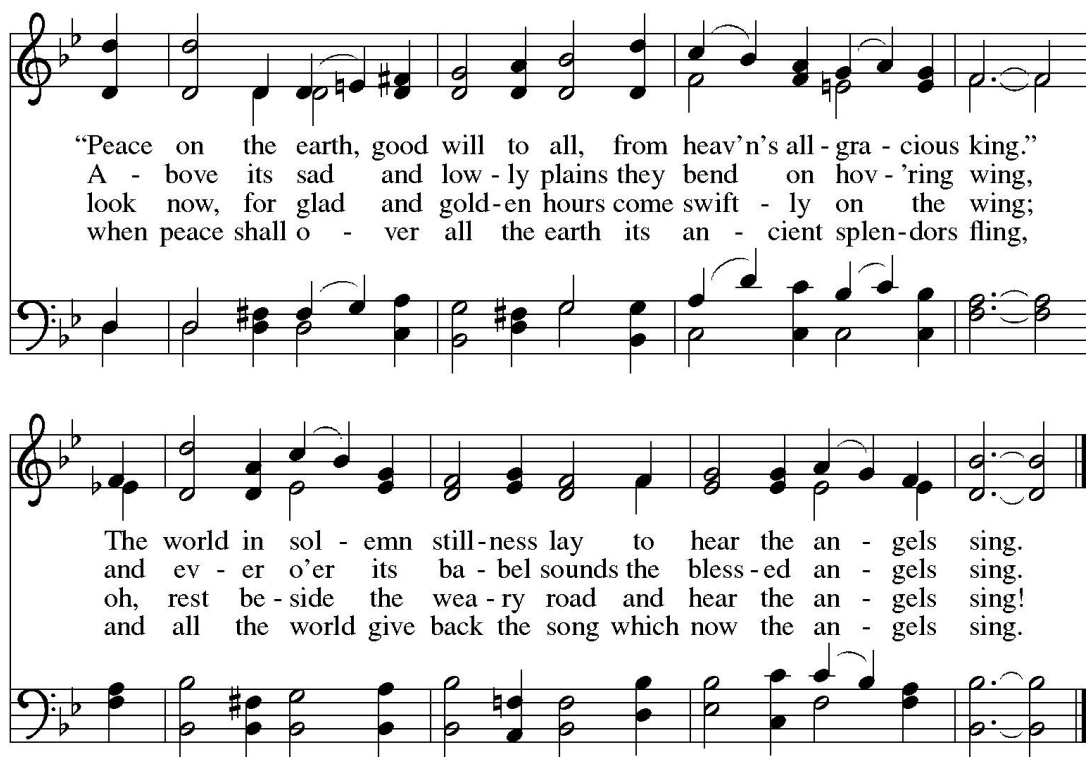
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

"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.

* TABLE BLESSING

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

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING (4:00)

* BLESSING (4:00)

The God who is love, Father, ☒ Son and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.
Amen.

* SENDING HYMN (4:00)

“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;

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.

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

CANDLELIGHT SENDING (8:00)

*During the reading of the Gospel, the light of Christ is shared throughout the church.
 Please dip your unlit candle into your neighbor's lit candle.*

*** SENDING GOSPEL**

A reading from John. *John 1:1-5, 14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** SENDING HYMN**

"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.

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The God who is love, Father, ☒ Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Jesus said to his friends, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

Thanks be to God!

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God."

Thanks be to God!

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE (4:00)

Spring from Four Seasons, RV 269

A. Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Wiebke Denecke, violin

Felix Denecke-Spakovszky, violin



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*

stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com

Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*

stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com

Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*

anazecicjeffers@gmail.com

Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

Committees

Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Transition Committee

Chairperson

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

