

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713**

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

***Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.***

**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**10 AM Carol Service of  
Holy Communion**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.



### **Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!**

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

### **Worship at Home and Away**

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org) and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices  
are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Prayground is available for young children  
in the rear of the sanctuary.**

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.  
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith  
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation  
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

*The sanctuary doors will be closed as worship begins with the prelude.*

### PRELUDE

Variations sur  
"In dulci jubilo"

arr. Denis Bédard

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live.

**You illumine our world with your beloved Son.**

By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness.

**Turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

### ENTRANCE HYMN

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

ELW 275

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,  
**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,  
 claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
 We have made power and wealth our idols,  
 while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
 We have overlooked the shepherds,  
 expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
 Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.  
 Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
 Grant us the grace to begin again.  
 Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,  
 through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones,  
 holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo**

Tune: GLORIA



O Lord God, our heav'n-ly King, God al-migh-ty, Fa-ther, we  
 Je-sus, Sa-vior of us all, Lord, Re-deem-er, Lamb of God,  
 You a-lone, the Ho-ly One, seat-ed there at God's right hand.



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, praise you for your glo-ry.  
 take a-way our world-ly sins, O, have mer-cy on us all.  
 Most High God, re-ceive our prayer. With the Spi-rit, glo-ri-fied.

*Refrain*



Glo - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo -



- ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

*Be seated.*

✠ WORD ✠

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

A reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I am as a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is as my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “The one who scattered Israel will gather them,  
and will keep them as a shepherd a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed Jacob's people from hands too strong for them.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
**We hear God's word full of grace and truth.**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Psalm 147:12-20**

*Antiphon: Ps. 147:12*

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.  
**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.  
<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.

**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup> God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.  
<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.**

**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

*The will of God made known in Christ*

A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that before God we should be holy and blameless in love. <sup>5</sup> God destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ: this was God's good pleasure and will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of God's glorious grace, freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> God has made known to us the mystery of the divine will, according to God's good pleasure set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to divine counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. <sup>13</sup> In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
**We hear God's word full of grace and truth.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**WELCOMING THE GOSPEL**

**Word of God, Come Down to Earth  
 ELW 510, Verse 1**

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

## HOLY GOSPEL

### John 1:1-18

*God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

The Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> The light was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made God known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Cris Frigm



*Please stand, as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Joyful Is the Dark

ACS 1096



1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,  
3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;  
4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,  
5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,



roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:  
wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;  
roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,



maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.  
hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: LINDNER, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

## **Nicene Creed**

Let us confess our faith:

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.*

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness, especially Will, Bob, Rich, Kara, Eric, Silas, Jim, Dot, Jenny, Jane, Judy, Stan, Janice, Claude, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Pat, Margaret, Jay, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive and Jim. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we and our partners in ministry, especially Reformation Lutheran Church in Milford and Hilltop Lutheran Community Center in Wilmington, have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, especially The Reverend Susan Nagel, Karen, Gary, and Sheri, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. Comfort those who are mourning, especially those impacted by violence in New Orleans. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

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.**

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace  
in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.***

*Be seated. **At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad** (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

## ✠ MEAL ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

## VOLUNTARY

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Leah DiChristopher, handbell solo

Henry Chisholm, piano

*Please stand, as you are able, as the gifts are presented and the table is set.*

## OFFERTORY

What Feast of Love

ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 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:

**SANCTUS**

**Holy, Holy, Lord Most Holy**

Tune: ELW 490



Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and



God of might: heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry.



Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light! Bless-ed be the com - ing



Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on the Sanctus  
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

## **EUCHARISTIC 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**

Blessed are we, as we lift the prayer Jesus has taught us, saying,

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

**We come to receive the gift of Jesus.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**O Lamb of God**

Tune: LBW 69



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a – way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a – way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a – way;



you suf – fered death our world to save: have mer - cy now we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.  
e – ter – nal peace with God you made: give us your peace we pray.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959  
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863  
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

*Be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.



All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

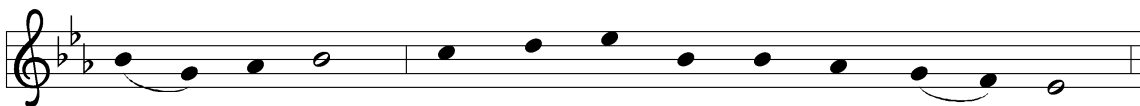
## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**  
**ELW 295**





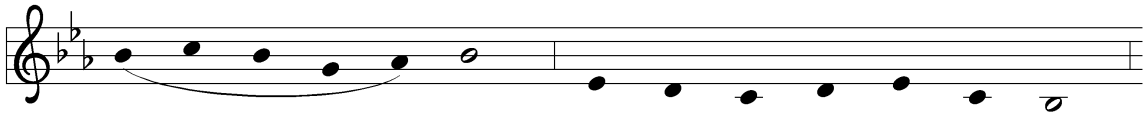
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
promised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

**Let Our Gladness Have No End**  
**ELW 291**  
*Found on p. 18*



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# Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Refrain*



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr, unknown  
Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

*After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.*

## BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

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.**

✘ SENDING ✘

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BENEDICTION**

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,  
and increase your joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

ELW 248 (harmony)



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.

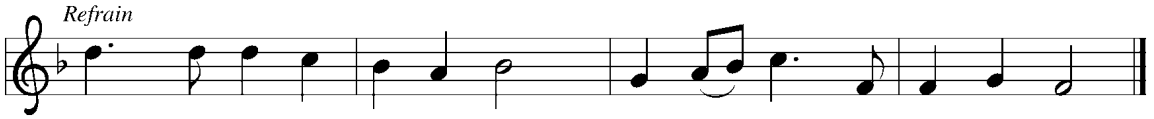


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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.

*Continued on p. 20*



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Fantasia on  
"In dulci jubilo"

arr. J. S. Bach

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Mary Beth Bergstrom
Lector:	Lorraine Fett
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Cindy Bart
Flower Guild:	Sue Wallden



The poinsettias and greens are given  
to the glory and praise of God.



*All the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.*

Psalm 98:3

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2025

### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (YEAR C)

Today, in the concluding days of the Christmas season, we reflect more deeply on the significance of the Christ who was born at Bethlehem. Our minds might not be able to comprehend just how Jesus existed with God from the very beginning of time, as the first chapter from the gospel of John proclaims today. What we do know is this: God comes into our presence today through Jesus Christ. Indeed it happens each Sunday and every other time that the church gathers. Through the scriptures as they are read and preached, through the bread and wine as it is offered to the baptized, God is made flesh among us. The real miracle of Christmas is that God is here now with us—always.

### A SPECIAL EPIPHANY OPPORTUNITY

We will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on Monday, January 6, at 7 PM. Our worship gathering will include the Rite of Installation as Pastor Cris begins his ministry with us. Please plan to be a part of this special worship service with a guest preacher, Pastor David Schafer, and Bishop Bill Gohl presiding for the installation. A lite reception will follow.

### INSTALLATION RECEPTION

We are having a gathering after Pastor Cris' Installation service. We are asking the congregation for help with supplying hors d'oeuvres or small appetizers, which can be shared after the service. If you are able to assist, please reach out to Lori Davis at [LoriDavis1025@gmail.com](mailto:LoriDavis1025@gmail.com) or by calling/texting at 302-897-8759.

### SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Come to hear the members of St. Paul's ministry of music, with vocal and instrumental guests from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, this afternoon at 4 PM.

### ADULT FORUM

No matter how accepting we are towards LGBTQ+ people, the Bible seems pretty clear on "homosexuality". Or does it? How do we answer that nagging question, "but isn't it a sin?" Plan to attend the Adult Forums on Sundays, January 5, 12, and 19, starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room. Join us as we examine what the Bible says about same gender attraction and sex. Hosted by members of the RIC Team.

## **BOOKS AND BANTER**

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

January 22 "I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai (*Back to fourth Wednesday*)

## **HOLY HIKE**

Love to enjoy walking in the great outdoors? Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 19 at 11:30 AM as we plan our schedule for the coming year. Questions? Please contact Linda Grund at [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com) or Rudy Schock at [rschock324@gmail.com](mailto:rschock324@gmail.com) We hope to grow our group this year and welcome input on when and where you would like to hike.

## **OLDER WISER LUTHERANS**

For all those OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) in our community, please plan to join us on Wednesday January 8, at 11:30 AM for our annual planning session. Can't make that date? Please remit your outing suggestions to Linda Grund at [lgrund923@gmail.com](mailto:lgrund923@gmail.com) or Bill Saylor at [bsaylor2@verizon.net](mailto:bsaylor2@verizon.net).

## **BREWING THEOLOGY**

For everyone 21 and older, please plan to join us on Wednesday, January 8, at 7 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation as we plan our schedule for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please speak to coordinators Rudy Schock or Linda Grund.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES**

Then I saw a most splendid light, which is without beginning and to whom nothing can be wanting: this splendid light means the Father; and in a figure of a man of a sapphire color, without any spot of the imperfection of envy and iniquity, is declared the Son, born of the Father, according to the divinity before all time, but afterwards incarnate according to humanity, in the world, in time; and the whole of this burns in a most beautiful, shining fire, which fire shows the Holy Spirit, by whom the Son poured forth the light of true brightness upon the world.

—Hildegard of Bingen, trans. Francesca Maria Steele,  
in *Medieval Women's Visionary Literature*, ed. Elizabeth Alvilda Petroff  
(New York: Oxford, 1986), 153



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



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## Nalini Janaki

*Business Administrator*

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## Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

## Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

## St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at [splcstaff@gmail.com](mailto:splcstaff@gmail.com).

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES  
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?  
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

