

# St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Advent Midweek  
December 13, 2023

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St. Paul Lutheran Church and School  
2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228  
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Pastor Gregory Alms      Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director

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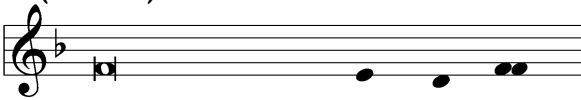
# Advent Midweek December 13, 2023

Mary is the mother of our Lord. She is also a model for our Christian faith. She is, like us, a sinner but one whom God chooses and blesses with grace in Christ. She is an example to us in listening, believing and rejoicing. May God bless this Advent season for all of us!

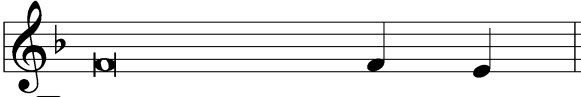
## Service of Light

*Congregation rises and faces the rear of the sanctuary.*

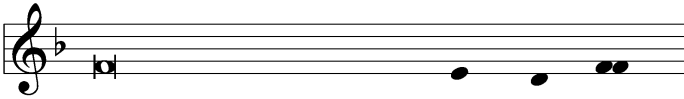
### Versicles (Advent)



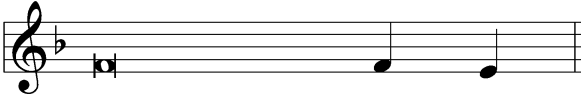
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



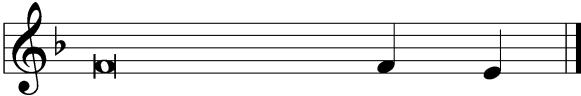
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

## Phos Hilaron



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

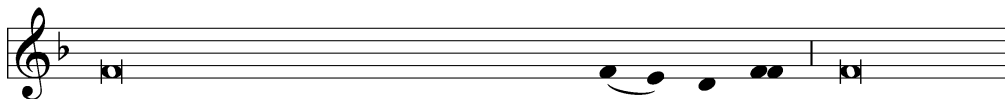


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

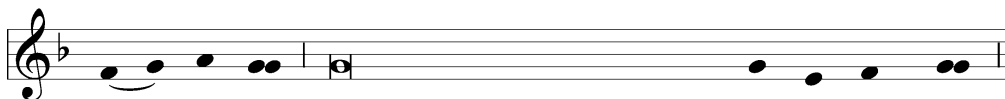
## Thanksgiving for Light



**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

# Psalmody

Congregation sings the refrain, marked with C, and the Glory be... also marked C

## Psalm 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

### Psalm Prayer

**L** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

## Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### First Reading

*Psalm 27: 1-5, 7-8, 13-14*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:



that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face."  
My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–12*

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Third Reading

Luke 1:39–45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Hebrews 1:1–2a

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

### Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav' n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320

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## Sermon: *Mary Believes*

*Stand*

### Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

LSB 935



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;  
His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.  
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.  
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926      Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949  
Text: © 1962, renewed 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320  
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## Prayer

### Litany

*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

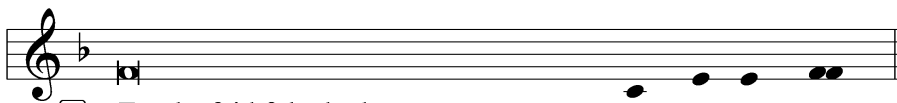
**L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

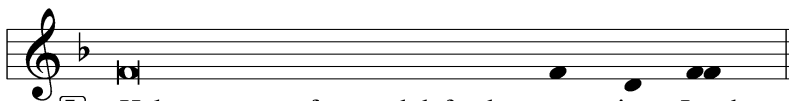
*The prayers then continue:*



**L** For the faithful who have gone  
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

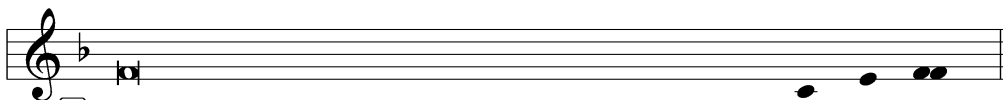


**C** Al - le - lu - ia.



**L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*



**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us  
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



**C** To You, O Lord.

### Collect for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

## Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

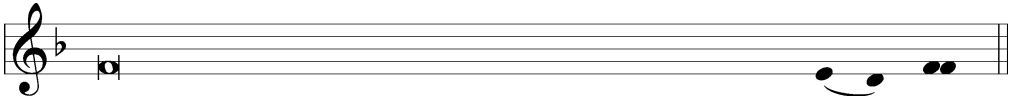


**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the  $\dagger$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

# The Day Thou Gavest

LSB 886



1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
 2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un-sleep-ing  
 3 As o'er each con-ti-nent and is-land  
 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is wak-ing  
 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall nev-er,



The dark-ness falls at Thy be-hest;  
 While earth rolls on-ward in-to light,  
 The dawn leads on-an-oth-er day,  
 Thy saints be-neath the west-ern skies,  
 Like earth's proud em-pires, pass a-way;



To Thee our morn-ing hymns as-cend-ed,  
 Through all the world her watch is keep-ing,  
 The voice of prayer is nev-er si-lent,  
 And hour by hour, as day is break-ing,  
 Thy king-dom stands and grows for-ev-er,



Thy praise shall sanc-ti-fy our rest.  
 And nev-er rests by day or night.  
 Nor dies the strain of praise a-way.  
 Fresh hymns of thank-ful praise a-rise.  
 Till all Thy crea-tures own Thy sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.  
 Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904  
 Text and tune: Public domain

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## Advent & Christmas Worship 2023

Sunday mornings: Worship at 10 AM

Midweek Advent Services: Mary: Example for Us

11 AM or 7 PM

Wednesday December 20

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 24

10 AM worship (No Bible Classes)

Christmas Eve

Family Service: 7 PM

Candlelight Service: 10 PM (Communion)

Christmas Day

Lessons & Carols: 10 AM (Communion)

First Sunday after Christmas

10 AM worship (No Bible Classes)

