

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



and on earth peace!

LUKE 2:14

Christmas Eve 7 pm
December 24, 2023

Welcome to the worship of the Newborn King!

Today we greet our Savior and Lord and God wrapped up in baby clothes. He comes not as a judge, not in strength and power but in the lowliness and meekness of His love for us. He comes as one of us, the true God who has become a human being to give us salvation. We join the angels in praising this saving mystery, the Word made flesh, God among us!

Welcome

If you are a guest with us today, we extend a special welcome in the name of Jesus! If you have questions or prayer requests or want to get in touch with us, please sign the guest book in the lobby (or use this QR code) or email or call.



Children's Bulletins are available in the lobby.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
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Pastor Gregory Alms Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Prelude: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Aaron David Miller
(b. 1972)

P For unto you is born this day in the city of David

C a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! (Luke 2:11)

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stand

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

(The four candles and the Christ candle are lit.)

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
C **those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**
(First candle is lit.)

- P For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
C **authority rests on his shoulder.** *(Second candle is lit.)*

- P He is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** *(Third candle is lit.)*

- P Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
C **on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it.**
(Fourth candle is lit.)

- P In him was life and the life was the light of men.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
(Christ candle is lit.)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

- P Let us pray.
C **O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Sit

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.

Text: Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Sermon

Away in a Manger

LSB 364

3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text: Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 96:1–10

L A reading from Psalm, the ninety-sixth chapter.

- ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
⁸Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1–7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!"



368 Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



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.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

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,

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 Thy ho - ly face

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 Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon



Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via the QR code or through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)



Prayer

- L Lord and Savior, through your birth in Bethlehem, through your life, death and resurrection, you brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C **Shine in us and through us. Lead us by the Holy Spirit to reflect Your light.**
- L Lord and Savior, Word made flesh, you are the Light no darkness can overcome. By your death and resurrection, you overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. You have brought us life and light, now and for all eternity. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C **Shine in us and through us. Help us to be bold witnesses for you, so that others will come to trust in you.**
- L Lord and Savior, through Baptism we were created anew as children of light, delivered from the domain of darkness and brought into your kingdom. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C **Shine in us and through us. Lead us to walk in love and to serve others in your name.**
- L Lord and Savior, Light of the world, hear our prayers and accept our praise.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**

Benediction

L And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”** (Luke 2:11-14)

L May the God of peace himself bless and keep you completely, now and always.

C **Amen.**

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Postlude: Let There Be Peace On Earth

Jill Jackson-Miller (1913-1995)
 Sy (Seymour) Miller (1908-1971)

Acknowledgments

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Join us for worship, a service of Lessons & Carols,
on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.