# St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



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!



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 2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228 Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924 www.stpaulcatonsville.org email: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org 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)



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.

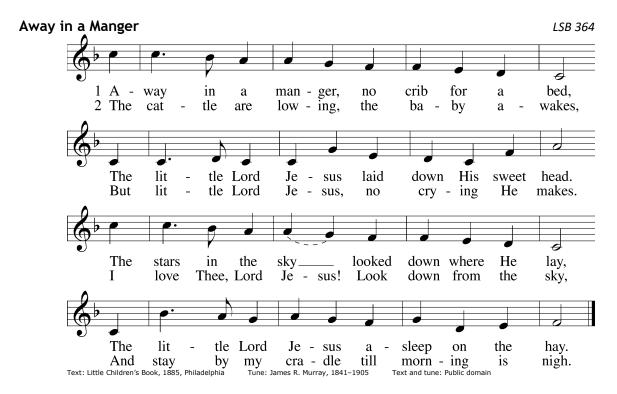
## (The four candles and the Christ candle are lit.)

- 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.*)

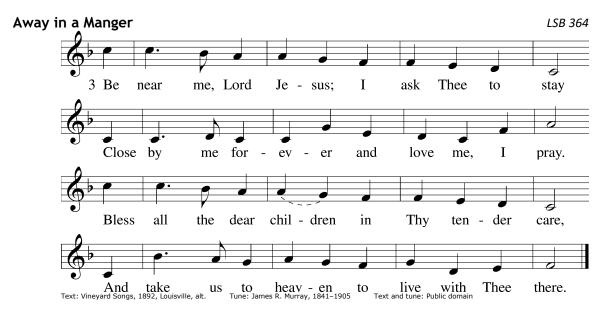
## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- 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



## **Children's Sermon**



## **Old Testament Reading**

<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. <sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. <sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him. all the earth!

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

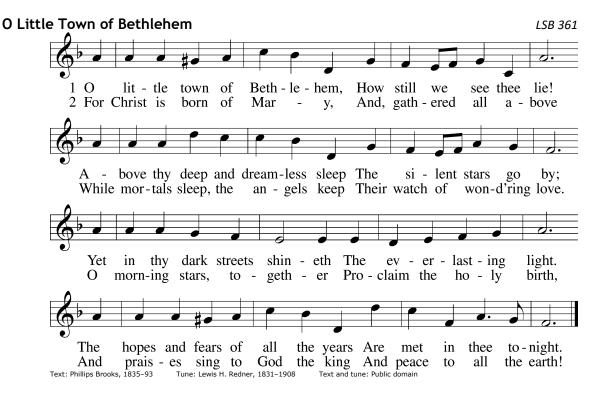
- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle Reading**

Titus 2:11–14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who 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.



## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:1–7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And 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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And 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 The won-drous gift is 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly giv'n! 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us. we pray; So hu - man hearts The His heav'n. God im - parts to bless - ings of Cast out our sin, and en - ter Be born in in, us to - day. His com - ing; But this world of No ear may hear in sin. We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell: Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still dear Christ en - ters The in. come a - bide with us. Our Lord Im - man - u - el!O to us, Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:8–14

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

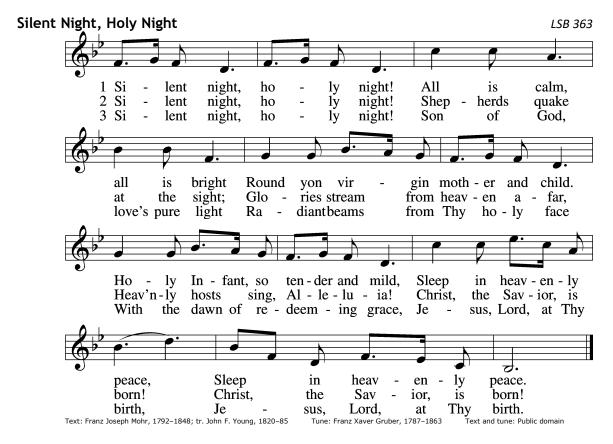


368 Angels We Have Heard on High LSB 368 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains. 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long? 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an gels sing: And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the Come. a - dore new - born King. Refrain 0 Glo ri - a ex - cel - sis Glo De in 0. Ф - riangle riDe 0. Text and tune: Public domain

## **Gospel Reading**

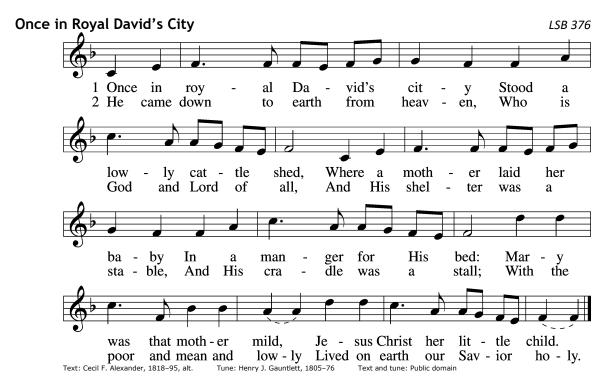
Luke 2:15–20

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## Sermon





#### 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

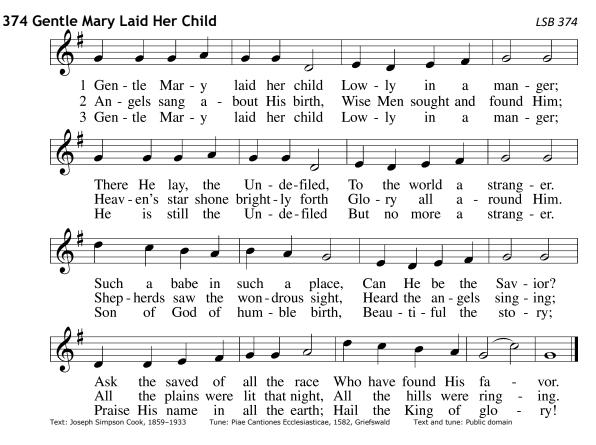
- L Lord and Savior, through your birth in Bethlehem, through your life, death and resurrection, you brought the light of hope to the world. Comfort those who are suffering through illness or grief. According to your will, bring them healing and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Light of 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

- 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.



#### 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.