

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025

Welcome

If you are a guest with us today, we welcome you 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.



Welcome to all! Thanks for joining us this morning.

Children’s bulletins and church bags (soft activity books, quiet toys and other “surprises”) are available in the narthex.

The Children’s Nursery Area is available downstairs in the Parish Hall. The service streams on the monitor and there is a soft rug, chairs, books and toys available. Turn right out of the sanctuary and go down the stairs.

Prelude: Please use the prelude as a time for quiet prayer and meditation before worship.

Prayer request cards are available in the pews facing you. You may give the card to an usher or place in the offering plate.

For Those Who Desire to Receive the Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at St. Paul in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion trays.)

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

Vicar Thomas Malmstrom

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025

Prelude: Creator of the Stars of Night: *Conditor alme siderum* Charles H. Giffen
(b. 1940)

Mighty Creator of the Stars from *Le Tombeau de Titelouze*, Op. 38
Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Mighty Creator of the stars, Eternal light of believers,
Jesus, Redeemer of mankind, Hearken to our beseeching prayers.

Stand

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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.**

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Confession of Sins

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.
I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*
and in his | word I hope;
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,*
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.
And he will redeem | Israel*
from all his in- | iquities.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Kyrie

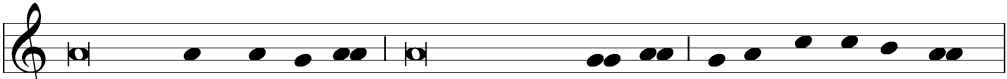
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



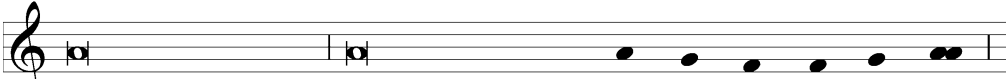
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



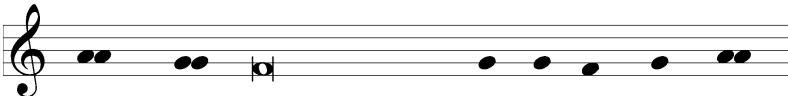
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise is Omitted in the Season of Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Anthem: Magnificat: My soul doth magnify the Lord Randall Thompson
From *The Nativity according to Saint Luke, Scene III, The Visitation* (1899-1984)
Charlotte MacKay, Soprano

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For He hath regarded the low estate of His hand maiden:
For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and Holy is His name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.
He hath shewed strength with His arm,
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.
He hath holpen His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy;
as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The second staff continues with 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' and ends with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature 'C'. It contains the melody for 'Glo - ry to You, O Lord.' and ends with a double bar line.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy

Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit



M A T T H E W 1 : 2 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

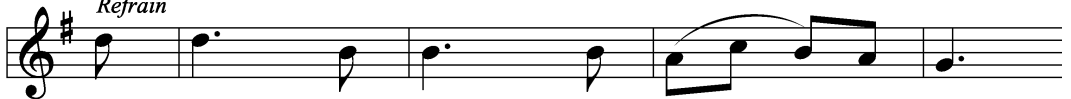


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Sermon

Rite of Confirmation

Thomas Brooks

Alexis Walkins

LSB P. 272

Confirmation Address

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Profession of Faith

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe 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.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, 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 everlasting.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Confirmation Blessing

P (Name), the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life T everlasting.

R *Amen.*

Collect for confirmation

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Peace T be with you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via this 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.)



Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will




call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface


2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

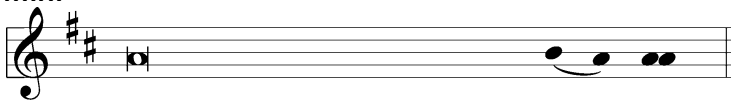
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C 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.

Sit

Distribution

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
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;



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.
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.



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,
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;



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!
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

peace on earth 
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

O Sing of Christ

LSB 362



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!



O God of God, O Light of Light

LSB 810



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
 2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
 4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo-ry bright The song of
 wing-ed word, Slow-ly in type, from age to age The na-tions
 hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a-bove He reigns, our
 mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for-ev-er rings. To Him who sits up-on the throne,
 saw their com-ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju-de-an night
 King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates!
 earth, your an-them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin-ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry
 Rang out the song, "Good-will to men!" Sung once by first-born
 So sang that host be-yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
 For-ev-er let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb, en-



He has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, a-men.
 sons of light, It ech-oes now, "Good-will!" A-men.
 King a-waits. We lift them up, A-men, a-men.
 throned to reign, All glo-ry, pow'r! A-men, a-men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, alt. Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LSB 937



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948-2025 Tune: American Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

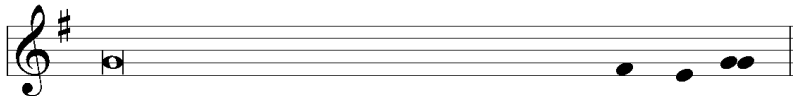
A Let us pray...



C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

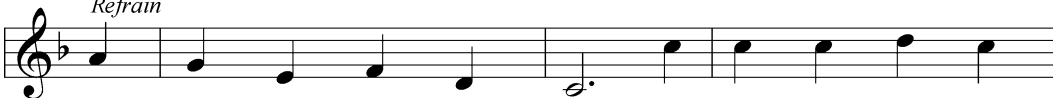


1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
 2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
 5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,



The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
 And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
 The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.

Refrain



Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glory And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Noël Suisse
 (Grand Jeu et Duo)

Louis-Claude Daquin
 (1694-1772)

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

News And Notes

Altar Flowers

Flowers are given by The Women's Guild, to the Glory of God!

Flower Calendar for 2026 is up!

Please note: There is a new 2026 sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers on the bulletin board. Sign up to honor and to celebrate people in your life and to beautify our sanctuary for worship.

Sunday School And Adult Bible Class!

Classes meet every Sunday at 8:45 AM. Come and join us.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Please greet and welcome our new members during fellowship hour downstairs.

The Nativity Of Our Lord: Worship Services

Christmas Eve: Family Service, 7 p.m. (no Communion)

Christmas Eve; Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. (Communion)

Christmas Day: Lessons and Carols, 10 a.m. (Communion)

Invite Someone To St. Paul This Christmas ...

Many people are just waiting for an invitation. They need to know they are wanted and welcomed. You can use a postcard available in the Narthex. Hand it to someone, mail it to someone, put it on your fridge to invite yourself.

St Paul Giving Opportunity:

If you are aged 70 1/2 or older you may be required by law to withdraw a minimum amount out of your IRA account on an annual basis. These distributions to you are taxable and must be withdrawn by December 31st each year. Why not consider giving these distributions or a portion of these distributions to St Paul to avoid the tax? This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. It's a smart way to donate with funds you would otherwise owe in tax. If you have questions regarding this strategy, please feel free to call John Borth.



Mission Brunch Sign-up 2026

Our 4th annual Congregation Mission Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 18th. We'll have a meal together after worship, and welcome guest speaker LeChelle Redd from Faith & Works Enterprises. Join us as we learn more about their mission and opportunities to impact Baltimore with the Gospel. **Sign-up on the bulletin board in the stairwell.**

End Of The Year Giving

End of the tax year giving: to be included for tax year 2025 St. Paul need to receive your donations by December 31st. The last worship service opportunity for offerings is December 28th. You may send a check via the US mail to St. Paul Lutheran 2001 Old Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228. These must be postmarked by December 31st. You may give electronically until the end of the day December 31st.

Newsletter

January Newsletter articles are due on December 29, 2025. Thank you for your promptness.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week 21st	Next week 28th
Cantor	Jim Baeder	Jim Baeder
Reader	JB Jaeger	Suzanne Giguere
Usher	Jim Kyne	Roy Krakat
Usher	David Nguyen	Ed Kester
Greeter	Joy Brooks	Pat Wesselman

Daily Readings

21 Dec	Is 42:1–25, Rev 9:1–12
22 Dec	Is 43:1–24, Rev 9:13–10:11
23 Dec	Is 43:25–44:20, Rev 11:1–19
24 Dec	Is 44:21–45:13, 20–25, Rev 12:1–17
25 Dec	Is 49:1–18, Matt 1:1–17
26 Dec	Is 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16, Matt 1:18–25
27 Dec	Is 51:17–52:12, Matt 2:1–12

Happening This Week

Monday Dec 22, 2025

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

AA Small Group

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Dec 23, 2025

Wednesday Dec 24, 2025

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

Sanctuary

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

Sanctuary

Thursday Dec 25, 2025

10:00 Am-11:00 PM

Christmas Worship

Sanctuary

Friday Dec 26, 2025

Pastor Alms' Day off

Saturday Dec 27, 2025

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Work Day

Sunday Dec 28, 2025

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Bible Classes

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sunday Worship

Sanctuary

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Asset Management Board Mtg.

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Oromo Worship

Sanctuary

18:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Oromo Fellowship

Sanctuary





CHURCH MEMBERS

Fred Shifflet (Heart valve replacement)
Debbie Frech (pneumonia, cancer, new chemotherapy treatment)
Jim Kyne (vision problem)
Lindsey Gay (continued recovery)
Marilyn Blomster (recovering)
Marilyn Haberl (scleroderma)

SHUT-INS

Dorothy Shifflett and Janet Conklin.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Steven Dombrowski, testing (father of Joy Brooks) 12/9
Kelly Kolenda, recovering from surgery (mother of Emily Kolenda) 12/9
Heidi Krenzke, rare muscle cancer (wife of OGT volunteer) 12/9
Tracy Family at the passing of their daughter Clare (family of Diane Jaeger) 12/9
Tommy Stigdon, recovering (Dana Stigdon's son) 11/30
Bob Unglesbee, spine fracture, (Christine Unglesbee Father-in-law) 10/28
John, rare aggressive form of cancer, (Sari's co-worker's husband) 10/28
Walt O'Reilly for recovering (Renata O'Reilly's husband)

Prayer is a great gift and privilege for Christians. To add people to the prayer list printed in the bulletin, please email pastoralms@stpaulcatonsville.org or linda.jones@spiscatonsville.org or call the church office at 410-747-1897. Family and friends will automatically be removed after one month. If you want your request to stay on for another month, just contact the office.

