

# St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



and on earth peace!

LUKE 2:14

Christmas Eve 7 pm

**December 24, 2025**

## 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.



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St. Paul Lutheran Church and School  
2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228  
Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924  
[www.stpaulcatonsville.org](http://www.stpaulcatonsville.org) email: [secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org)  
Pastor Gregory Alms      Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director  
Vicar Thomas Malstrom

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# Christmas Eve

## December 24, 2025

Prelude:

Once In Royal David's City  
*Irby*

David Willcocks  
(1919-2015)

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  
ploy, 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

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*(The center white candle and all four candles around the Advent wreath are lit.)*

P On this holy night, we light all four candles and the center candle, the Christ candle, on the Advent wreath. God's promise to send a Savior has been fulfilled. The Light of the World has come. Christ the Lord is born!

C **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

P The Son of God humbled himself to be born among us. The newborn Savior was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The infant King was worshiped by shepherds and praised by angels. Tonight, we join them in praising our Lord and King. To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!

C **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

## Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness for the sake of Christ our King.

C **Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn away from your Word and your will for us. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We choose to follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

P God has had mercy on us. Jesus our Lord, whose birth we celebrate tonight, came to be our Savior. He suffered, died and rose up in triumph over death to redeem us. For His sake God forgives us all our sins. To God be the glory!

C **To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given!**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given;  
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
 there will be no end,  
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
 to establish it and to uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time forth and forevermore.

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



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him

or 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.

- L 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: Part One

Luke 2:1-7

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

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

<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 heaven

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



## Angels We Have Heard on High



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?



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?



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



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

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.

# 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 and tune: Public domain

## Sermon



# 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

*peace on earth*   
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

## *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](http://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.)*



### **Prayers**

- P** Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself to take on our human flesh, to be born among us. You were wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid to sleep in a manger. We glorify God on this holy night as we rejoice in your birth. Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C You were born among us to save us.**
- P** Lord Jesus, you came to this world to redeem us through your suffering, death and resurrection. By God's grace through faith in your name, our sins are forgiven, and we are children of God and heirs of eternal life. Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C You were born among us to save us.**

P Lord Jesus, on this holy night, there are so many who remember your birth while they must suffer through illness, fear or loss. Comfort them with your presence and the peace. Lead us to bring them help and hope through the promises of your Word. Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem.

**C You were born among us to save us.**

P Lord Jesus, teach us to follow your example of humble service. Help us to walk in love as you walked and to bring your compassion and your peace to everyone we meet. Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**C You were born among us to save us. 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 May the God of peace himself bless and keep you completely, now and always.

**C Amen.**

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 363



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 Right-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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude:

Let There Be Peace On Earth

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

## Acknowledgments

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## Christmas Poinsettias



Linda Klingmeyer, in memory of husband, Richard Klingmeyer  
Barb Haar, to the glory of God  
Jim and LaVerne Kyne, to the glory of God  
Debbie Frech, in memory of Vernon and Dottie Frech  
Janice Gay, in memory of John Gay  
Kevin and Robbin Dungey, in memory of Beth Dungey and Martha Sedlar,  
our mother's  
John and Karyn Borth, in memory of Ed and Florence Borth, our parents  
Stan and Dana Stigdon, to the glory of God  
Janet and Jim Lister, in memory of our parents  
In memory of, Maria Carrillo, aunt of Marcella Hemmeter  
In memory of Eugenia and Gordon Blank, grandparents of Jeffrey Hemmeter  
In memory of Leona Dunwoody, great aunt of Jeffrey Hemmeter  
In memory of Donald Blank, Godfather of Jeffrey Hemmeter  
Carolyn Loudon, in memory of John and Audrey Neubert  
Faith and David Carnes, in memory of Barbara Ashely, mom of Faith and David  
Bill and Debbie Oldhouser, in memory of, Wilson H. Oldhouser, Jr., father of Bill  
Bill and Debbie Oldhouser, in memory of, E. Curtis Chandler, Jr., Debbie's father  
Norman and Irene Giguere, in memory of Mark Neebe, cousin and godson  
Chris and Jessie Meyer, in memory of Tom Ball, Jessie's father  
Chris and Jessie Meyer, in memory of Chris's mother  
Betsy Mitchell, in memory of Don Mitchell, Betsy's husband  
Christina Unglesbee, in memory of Don Mitchell, father/grandfather/pop-pop  
Pastor and Suzanne Alms, in thanksgiving for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

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