

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## *The First Sunday Of Christmas*

*“A Service of Lessons & Carols”*

Sunday, December 31, 2023    10:00 AM Service

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 31 - 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

*“A Service of Lessons and Carols”*

+ *Please Stand*

**Welcome & Morning Prayer**      **Donald R. Martin, Jr.**

**Prelude**      James Freeman, Organ

+      **A Christmas Dialogue**

**L** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**L** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C** **We behold Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

**L** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C** **In him was life. And the life was the light of all people.**

**Opening Hymn**

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

*LBW No. 45*

**The Prayer of the Day**

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**L** Let Us Pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do. Through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

+

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Benediction**

- L** Glory to God in the highest  
**C** **And peace to God's people on earth.**  
**L** Blessed are you, Prince of Peace.  
**C** **Send your gift of peace to all the nations of the world.**  
**L** Blessed are you, Son of Mary.  
**C** **Have mercy on the sick and all who suffer this day.**  
**L** Blessed are you Son of God.  
**C** **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to the world.**  
**L** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks, be to God.**  
**L** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the newborn Christ Child.  
**C** **Almighty God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us all, now and forever, Amen.**

+ **Hymn**                    *"Joy to the World"*                    **LBW No. 39**

## **Dismissal**

**L** Go In Peace to Serve the Lord!    **C** **Thanks be to God!**

**The Postlude**

James Freeman, Organist

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Hymn**      *“Hark The Glad Sound”*      **LBW No. 35**

## The Second Lesson

Micah 5: 2-5a

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

**Hymn**      *“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”*  
**LBW No. 54**

## The Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Hymn** *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* **LBW No. 41**

## The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn** *"Away In A Manger"* **LBW No. 67**

## The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn

*“What Child Is This”*

LBW No.40

## The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:21-33

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

**Hymn**     *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*     **LBW No. 44**

**The Seventh Lesson**

**Matthew 2:1-11**

<sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea. <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Hymn**

*“We Three Kings”*

**WOV No. 646**

**The Eighth Lesson**

**Matthew 2:13-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

### *Refrain*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

## Hark, the Glad Sound!

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring, with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751



## **It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

## Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

## What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

## **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

### ***Refrain***

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

### ***Refrain***

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

### ***Refrain***

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

### ***Refrain***

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.

### ***Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

## **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

# Our Worship Leaders & Administrative Staff...

**Senior Pastor...** The Rev. Peter J. Hartmann  
**Director of Music & CFO ...** Donald R. Martin, Jr.

**Senior Organist ...** Rebecca T. McClain

**Office Administrator ...** Fran Snipes

**“The Epistle” ...** Betsy Martin

**Facebook Live Broadcasting...** Lisa B. Martin

**Chancel Choir Soprano Section Leader ...**

Melissa Flummerfelt

**Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader ...** Anthony Broadnax

**Pre-School Director ...** Gina Johnson

**Assistant Pre-School Director ...** Cynthia Thomas

**Parish Housekeeping ...** April Reilly

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*Pastor Hartmann is on vacation today!*

*In Case of Emergency, Please Call His Cell 912.713.7145.*

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## We Remember in Our Prayers...

Kevin Boatright, Ronnie & Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Mike Hatfill, Don Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Ann Lariscy, George Martin Sr., Joan Martin, Leonora Reid, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Sherouse, Mary Sikes, Charlie Smith, Barbara & Tim Tyson, and Melissa Waller.

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Christmas Eve Morning 10:00 am - 125 Facebook - 124

Christmas Eve 6:30 pm - 173 10:00 pm - 54 Facebook - 86

Total Christmas Offerings \$4,800.00

E-Giving \$1107.56 Christmas Angels \$13,000.00

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