



The
Sixty-Fifth
Tri-Church
Christmas Festival

Featuring the
Choirs & Congregations of

St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church



St. Paul's
Greek Orthodox Church



Sacred Heart
Catholic Church

Sunday December 14th at 4 O'clock in the Afternoon

Sunday, December 14th, 2024 4:00 PM
The Second Sunday in Advent

+ *Please Stand*

Prelude Music

Festival Brass Quartet - Holiday Music
Alyse Hudson, Eduardo Sanchez
David Elliott & Dave Fulton

+ **Piano - Christmas Meditations**
Jared Hall, Organist / Choir Accompanist, St. Paul's

Welcome

Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

Processional Hymn

James Freeman, Organ

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

- 1 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:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Invocation

Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

Congregational Carol

James Freeman, Organ

+

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.
- 4 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!

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-5

Rev. Peter J. Hartmann

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The Festival Choir

Jared Hall, Accompanist
Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

“Every Valley”

John Ness Beck

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Fr. Tom Guerry

² 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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

The Festival Choir

“For Unto us A Child Is Born”

John Carter

Jared Hall, Accompanist

Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

The Third Lesson

Matthew 1:18-21

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Congregational Carol

+ “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
Sinai's height, in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's
tyranny; from depths of hell your people save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your
advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly
home; make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 1:22-25

St. Paul's Lutheran

²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Festival Choir

“Kontakion” (To A Virgin)

Jared Hall, Accompanist

Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

The Festival Choir

Jared Hall, Accompanist
Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music

"Still, Still, Still"

Traditional German Carol

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Congregational Carol

James Freeman, Organ

“We Three Kings”

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.

The Seventh Lesson

Mathew 2:1-11

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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.

+ **Congregational Carol**

James Freeman, Organ

“Silent Night”

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Closing Prayer & Benediction Rev. Peter Hartmann

Congregational Carol

James Freeman, Organ

“Joy to the World”

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Brass Postlude - The Festival Brass

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*You are Cordially Invited to Attend a Reception Immediately
Following the Festival at the Hellenic Center of
St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, Anderson Street.*

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*The Festival Brass is Given to the Glory of Almighty God
And in Honor of Donald Martin Jr. and his 25th Year
Of Music Ministry at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
through The Epting Fund.*

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*A Special Thank You to David & Dianne Fennell For Coordinating
Our Pageant Costumes and Performers in this 65th Year.*