

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**The Word  
became flesh  
and lived  
among us**

JOHN 1:14

*The Second Sunday  
of Christmas*

Sunday, January 4, 2026 10:00 a.m.

10 West 31st Street, Savannah, Georgia

912.233.8895

stpaul\_office@yahoo.com

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**  
**The Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Service Prelude**

Jared Hall, Organist

**Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

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

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

# “Brightest and Best” #84



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ring di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

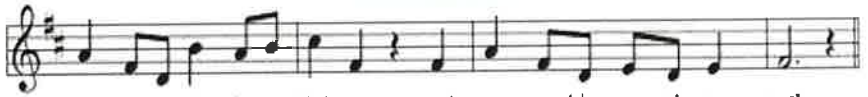
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## The Gloria



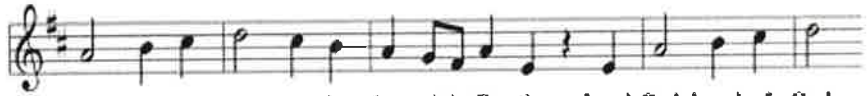
W Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

## Recognition of Birthdays & The Children's Sermon

- <sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”
- <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.
- <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
- <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”
- <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.
- <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
- <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

**Here Ends the First Lesson**

## Psalm Hymn

# “Away In A Manger” (Cradle Song)

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics and chords (F, Dm, F, Gm).

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the  
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics and chords (Bb, C, F, Gm, Bb, C).

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The  
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I  
by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics and chords (F, Gm).

stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

Musical notation for the fourth system, including treble and bass staves with lyrics and chords (C, F, Gm, C, F).

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.  
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

## The Second Lesson

## Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

### Here Ends the Second Lesson



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

## **P The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the first chapter.**



<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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## **P The Gospel of the Lord**



## The Sermon Hymn

## "I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day"

1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their  
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The  
 3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There  
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God  
 5. Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The

old fa - mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the  
 bel - fries of all Christen - dom Had rolled a - long th'un -  
 is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and  
 is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the  
 world re - volved from night to day A voice, a chime, a

words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."  
 right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."  
 chant sub - lime, Of peace on earth, good will to men.

## 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 Prayers of The Church

### 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.**

**P** The Peace of The Lord Be with You.

**C** And Also with You.

## Sharing of The Peace & Chancel Choir Anthem

### The Offering

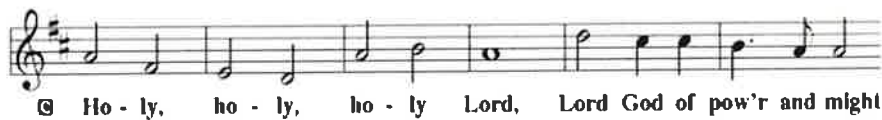
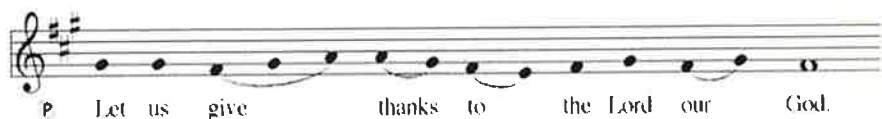
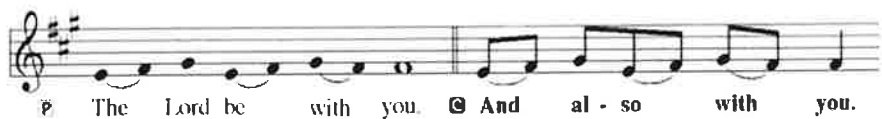
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**P** Let Us Pray

**P** Merciful Father,

**C** We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love, Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### The Great Thanksgiving



### The Words of Institution

## The Communion



☉ 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.

**P** The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.



☉ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



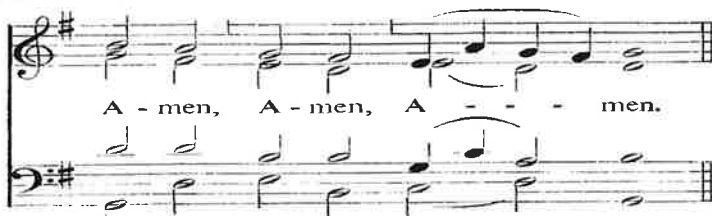
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



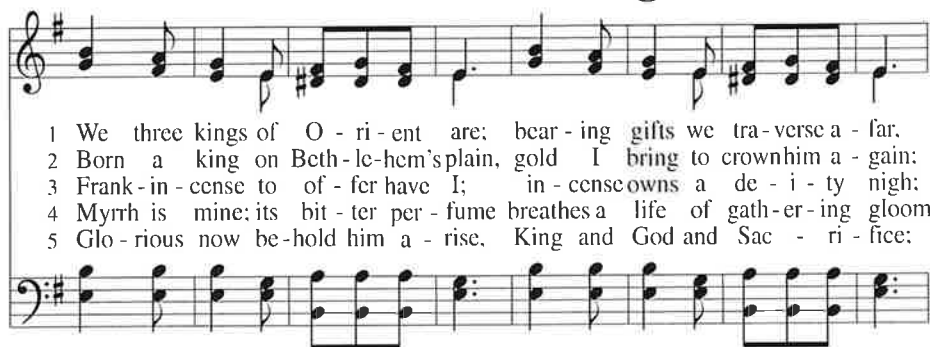
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-la. Al-le-lu-la.

## Benediction

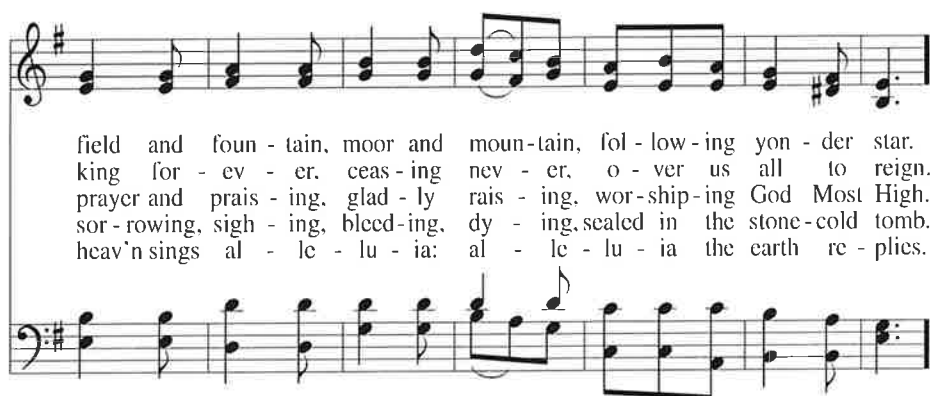
**P** The Lord Bless You & Keep You, The Lord Make His Face Shine on you and Be Gracious to You, The Lord Look Upon You with Favor, and Give You Peace.



## The Closing Hymn “We Three Kings”




1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far.  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;




field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia; al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

### *Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

**P/C** Go In Peace! Serve The Lord! / **Thanks Be To God!**

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**We Welcome You to  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church...**

Whether you are a long time member, friend at St. Paul's, or here for the first time, we are glad you are with us in worship today! If you are in need of pastoral care, please give us a call. If you will be entering the hospital or preparing for any surgical procedures, please let the Pastor know so he can plan to visit and have prayer with you during this time. Thank you for checking the "prayer list" posted in the bulletin today and for helping us to keep this list current by notifying the office with any updates.

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**We Remember in Our Prayers...**

Kristen Aspaas, Kevin Boatright, Delores Boatright, Angie Briggs, Florence Brown, Tom Brown, Jean Camp, Alice Ann Duggar, David Fennell, George Flathmann, Mike Frederick, Miriam Fulton, Frances Graff, Louise Grotheer, Mike Hatfil, Gene Henry, Don Kennedy, Dianne Martin, Mario Morin, Sydney Oetgen, Al Schunemann, Kay Sellman, Isabelle Sherouse, Charlie Smith, Debbie Sonnenschmidt, Barbara & Tim Tyson, Melissa Waller, Michelle Ward, Joe Whitaker, Lea Wright and Alan Wyatt.

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**Current Budgetary Needs Each Sunday:  
\$8,200.00**

**Received From Current Offerings &  
Christmas Worship Statistics:**

**Sunday, December 21st**

**10:00 AM - 129 Facebook - 187**

**Offering \$5,658.00 Angels \$38,500.00**

**Christmas Eve, December 24th**

**6:00 PM - 178 10:00 PM - 76 Facebook - 191**

**Offering \$2,390.00 Angels \$2,500.00**

**Sunday, December 28th**

**10:00 AM - 52 Facebook Broadcast - 112**

**Offering \$736.00 Angels \$0**

**Christmas Angels to Date**

**Nov 30th to December 30th**

[Not inclusive of our Quiet Angels all through the year]

**\$64,800.00**

## **Our Worship Leaders & Staff...**

**Senior Pastor...** The Rev. Peter J. Hartmann  
**Director of Music & CFO ...** Donald R. Martin, Jr.  
**Senior Organist & Choir Accompanist ...** Jared Hall  
**Organ Curator ...** James Freeman - Callahan, Florida  
**Office Administrator ...** Fran Snipes  
**“The Epistle” ...** Betsy Martin  
**Facebook Live ...** Lisa B. Martin, Emma Levy, George Wiggins  
**Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader &  
Assistant Choral Director ...** Anthony Broadnax  
**Chancel Choir Soprano Section Leader ...** Evelyn Thomas  
**Chancel Choir Tenor Section Leader ...** Allan Berry, II  
**Resonator Guitar ...** William Pan  
**Pre-School Director ...** Gina Johnson  
**Assistant Pre-School Director ...** Cynthia Thomas  
**Parish Housekeeping ...** April Reilly

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**Our Lector Today** Mary Gail Wolf

### **Altar Guild**

Pat Sparke & Mickie Waldhauer

### **Liturgical Service Cantors**

Emma Levy, Carol Stemsrud & Donald Martin

### **Communion Assistants**

Chris Conway & Charlie Schafer

### **Narthex Greeter**

Marth McCallar

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## **Pet Blessing**

**SATURDAY  
January 17, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

**Hoffner Hall**

*Happy*  
NEW YEAR  
2026

May God's presence forever reside in your heart. As you step into each new chapter of your life, may the Lord bestow His grace and strength upon you. Happy New Year!



Online  
Giving+

NOW AVAILABLE

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

10 West 31st Street Savannah, Georgia 31401 (912) 233-8895

**Rev. Peter J. Hartmann, Pastor**

Donald R. Martin, Jr., Director of Music