

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE



December 22, 2024

4:00 and 8:00 pm

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE*

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

***For Sunday, December 29 there will be one service at 10:30, and no education hour.**

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Kelli Oliver and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Allison, Isaac Van Deventer, *Lector*
Peter Hedlund, *Deacon*
Hollie Schmidt and Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter and Hollie Schmidt, *Coffee Guild*

Cover Art:

The Numbering at Bethlehem, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1566

Thank You to The Nature Connection!

We are so grateful for The Nature Connection's participation in our tradition of inviting a live animal to the early Christmas Eve service. The Nature Connection is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities through the therapeutic use of nature. They offer public programs for children and adults, as well as partner with organizations supporting those with limited access to nature, such as nursing homes, dementia care facilities, youth-at-risk organizations, and adults with disabilities facilities. You can learn more about The Nature Connection, including volunteer opportunities, by checking out their website: <https://www.nature-connection.org/>



ALTAR POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN BY

Kat Allen — *in loving memory of Jon Duncan and Jeff Allen*

Stu Bassler — *in memory of loved ones*

The Brown Family — *in loving memory of Ken and Shirley Brown and
Cornelius and Ann Hack*

Sarah Carter

John Christianson — *in memory of loved ones*

Kim Fechtel and David Osterbur — *to celebrate new life: Zaiden Lee Badhey*

The Hedlund Family — *- in memory of our grandparents*

Darby Hering - *to the glory of God*

Bev Hjorth and Thomas Bertschinger — *to the glory of God*

John Hoversten

Jim Mitchell — *for John Haag, and James and Rita O'Reilly*

Eileen Moyer — *for Elaine Reiser, may her memory be a blessing*

Norma Ofsthun and Family — *in the memory of loved ones*

Nicole Rura — *the glory of God and in memory of all those who have gone before*

The Schanbacher Family — *in honor of our children, Ainsley and Jud*

Gretchen Stark

Sandy and Mark Walker — *in memory of our parents*

Taryn Walsh — *in memory of Robert and Adele Walsh*

The Turner / White Family — *in memory of Andrew White*

Lydia Zuehsow — *in memory of Jin Sun Kim-Zuehsow*

**Feel free to take home your poinsettias
after the 8:00 pm service.**

When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.

At the ☒, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.

The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Es ist ein' Ros' eintsprungen

J. Brahms (1833-1897)

WELCOME

* GATHERING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW 283

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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.

You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
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.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
Great will be his authority,
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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 96

The psalm is spoken responsively, with the congregation speaking the bold verses.

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

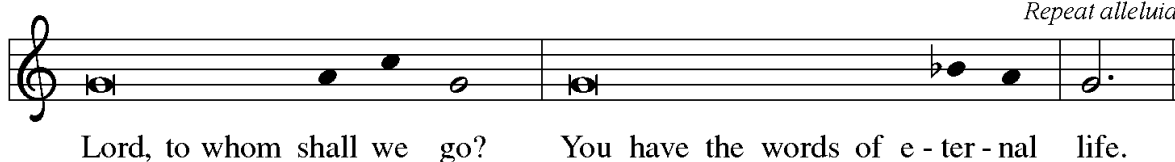
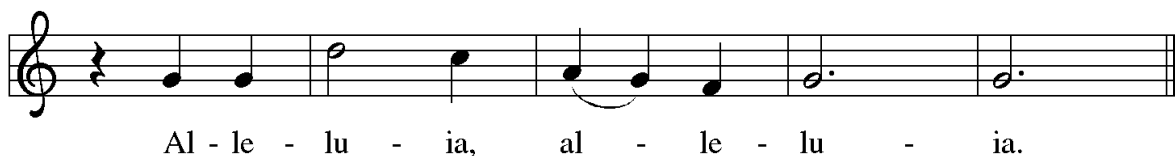
The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME (4:00)

Pastor Ross Goodman and Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON (8:00)

Pastor Ross Goodman

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW 281


Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 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,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 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 your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 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 your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.


“What Child is This”




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict, especially in Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy, especially Dan, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen, Paul, and Susan. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

* PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM (4:00)

“Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabelle”

Bring a torch Jeanette, Isabella
Bring a torch, come hurry and run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village
Christ is born, and Mary's calling
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the child!

It is wrong when the baby is sleeping,
it is wrong to speak so loud;
Silence now, as you come near the cradle
Lest you awaken little Jesus
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the child!

Skies are glowing,
the heavens are cloudless,
Bright the path to the manger bed.
Hasten, all who would see little Jesus,
Shining bright as a yonder star.
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the child!
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the child!

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,
From the beginning, you have called forth life,
In which you take delight,
The tree, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of you salvation from day to day.
Amen.

OFFERING



You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

We praise you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

We praise you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277

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

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
 Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by the goodness,
Send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The God of love,
Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

* SENDING HYMN (4:00)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

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?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

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?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

* SENDING HYMN (8:00 – turn back to page 9)

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW 281

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (4:00)

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimm

F. Busoni/J. S. Bach



SAINT PAUL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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