

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

**NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.**

**Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

**\*Gathering Song:**

Once in Royal David's City

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1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Remembering that Jesus the Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and was raised on the third day giving us eternal life. We continue with confession and forgiveness.

### **\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. 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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence for Reflection*

God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C: Amen.**

### **\* SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

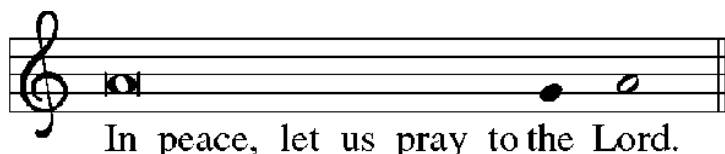
**C: And also with you.**

### **GREETING (Please be seated)**

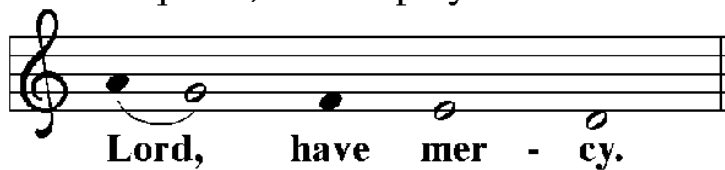
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

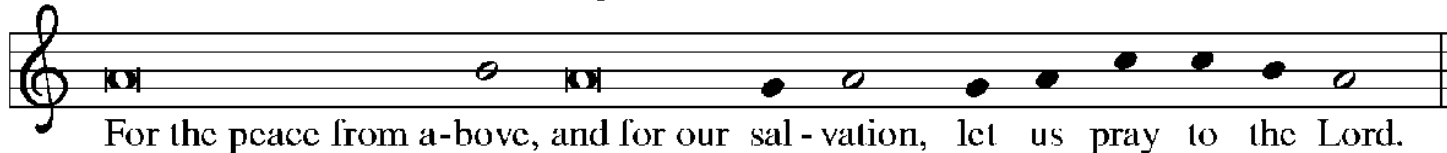
**Kyrie:**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



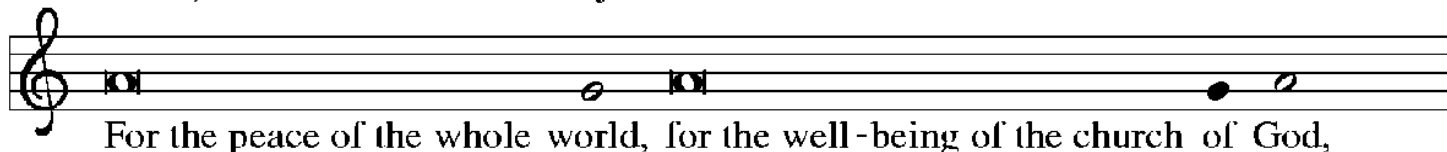
Lord, have mer - cy.



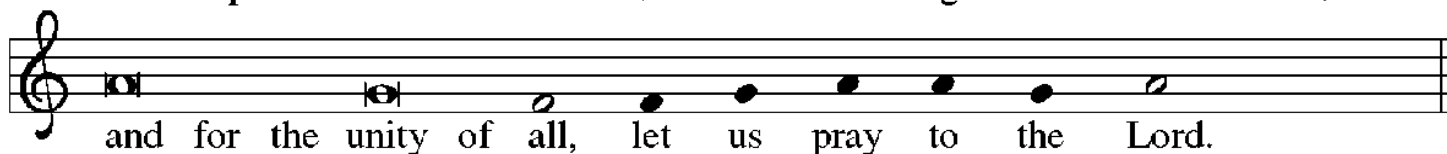
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



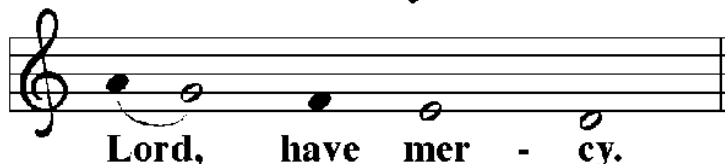
Lord, have mer - cy.



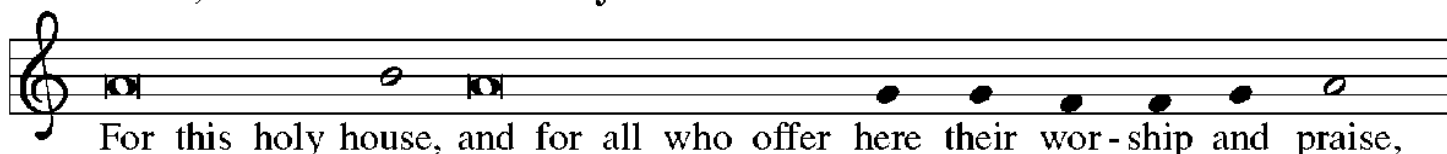
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



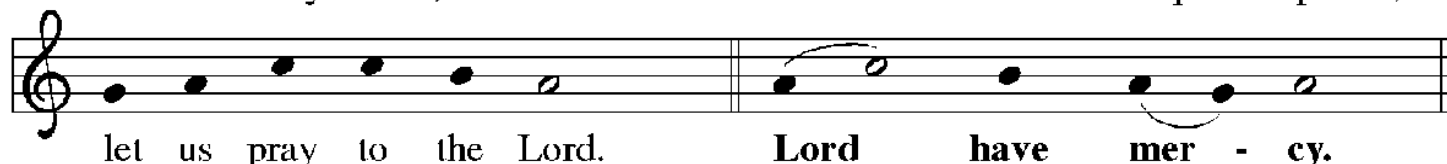
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



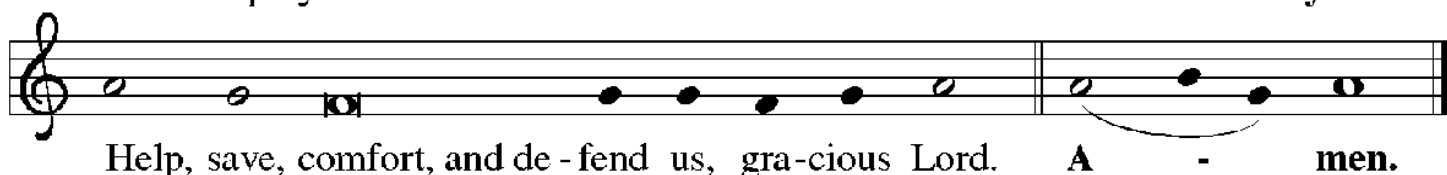
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Hymn of Praise: Glory to God

**Song Leader**




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


**All**




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.



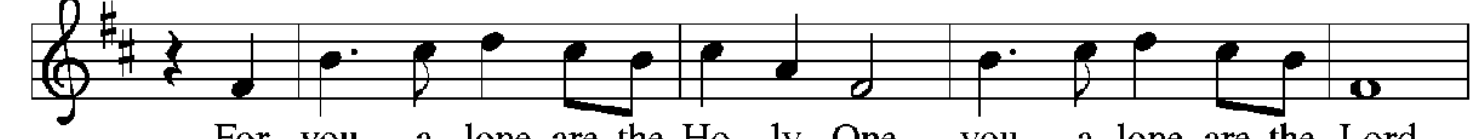
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




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.

**Prayer of the Day:** Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

### WORD

#### The 1st lesson is a reading from I Samuel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 148: (Read responsively)

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,  
**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**The 2nd lesson is a reading from Colossians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**



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

**\*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day:

## Away in a Manger

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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 nigh.  
 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

*Welcome New Member: John & Debi Berry*

**\* Apostle's Creed – Please stand. 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 to the dead. 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.**

### THANKSGIVING

**Offering:** We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts. Through this small sacrifice, God's love is shown through us, to those who are in need.

**\*(Please Stand) Offertory: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Offertory Prayer:** God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, 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 your salvation from day to day.

**C: Amen.**

**\* The Prayers of Intercession:** The congregation's response to "God of grace," is "receive our prayer."

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

## SENDING

**\*Blessing:** (Please Stand)

Pastor David

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

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

*Refrain* **Go Tell It on the Mountain** **290**

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;  
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*  
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



P: Go in peace. The word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Presiding Minister

Organist / Keyboard

Song Leader

Acolyte

Audio / Video Technician

Reader

Council

Greeters

Altar Flowers

Pastor David Viles

Zola Finch

Dan Tschirgi

Morgan Schroeder

Roger Pennell

Donald Weber

Misty Schroeder

David & Trish Russell

Kathryn Linsenbardt

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Christmas tree** and all of the decorations will be removed on Saturday, January 4 beginning at 3 o'clock. Afterwards, we will again treat ourselves to a wine, cheese and soup supper. Volunteers are welcome.

**Annual Meeting** will be January 19, 2025. Thank you to all who have gotten their reports in.

**Jr. Lutherans lunch tree:** This will be the last Sunday to give to the lunch tree. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**Be sure to check the red buckets** for your Christmas cards.

**Please take your poinsettia plants home today if you haven't already done so.**

**The council nominating committee** (Delores Vlach, Kathy Meller, Dan Tschirgi) is seeking three people willing to serve on the Church Council. The work of the Council is vital to help St Paul's meet our purpose and principles as stated inside the front and back covers of our directory. The services needed are for the Council Secretary, Stewardship Committee, and Technology Committee. These positions do receive good support from the church Committee members, making the jobs easier. The Nominating Committee members ask all to prayerfully consider one of these leadership positions and to ask a Committee member or any current Council member the nature of the positions and level of time commitment.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

Hymn History - Our gathering song "Once in Royal David's City" was written by Cecil Frances Humphries. Born in 1818 in Ireland, as a small child Cecil wrote poetry in her school's journal. In 1850 she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican primate (chief bishop) of Ireland. She showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf. Her first book of poetry "Verses for Seasons" was a "Christian Year" for children. She wrote hymns based on the Apostles' Creed, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, and prayer, writing in simple language for children. Our gathering song was written to explain this part of the Apostles' Creed: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary." Each stanza explores part of the contrast between Jesus' divinity and humanity. The first stanza contrasts the grand idea of "royal David's city" with the lowliness of a cattle-shed, and the second, the glory of heaven, from where He came, with the poverty of earth to which He came. The hymn ends by reminding us that Christ has ascended once again to glory.

Source: Hymnary.org

### **Schedule for Online Services:**

Services are at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on FaceBook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

All services can be viewed at any time on our St. Paul's website:

<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org> just scroll down to the middle section and click on the service of your choice under "In Case You Missed It." Below that is another section for current and past bulletins.

Pastor David