

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**8618 Church Hill Drive, Lohman, Missouri 65053**

Pastor David Viles: cell 479-670-2000 Email: [dlviles@gmail.com](mailto:dlviles@gmail.com)

PH: 573-782-4458 (church office) [www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org](http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org)

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

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 5, 2025**

**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:**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

**275**



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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.

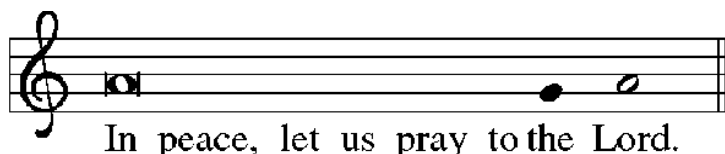
**C: And also with you.**

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

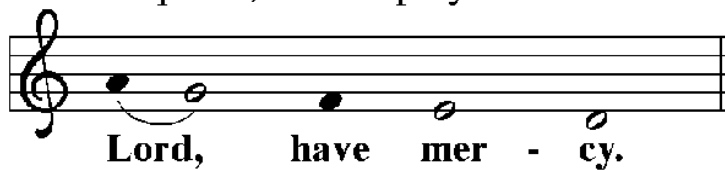
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

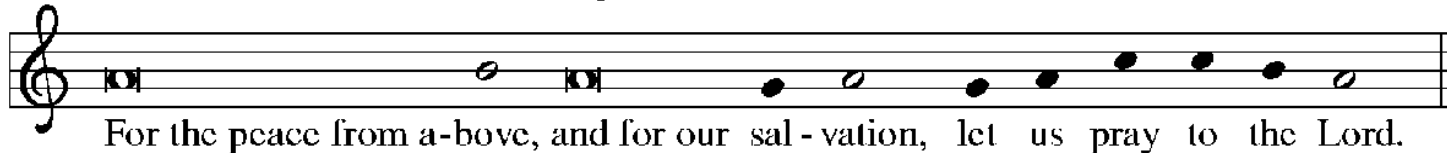
**Kyrie:**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



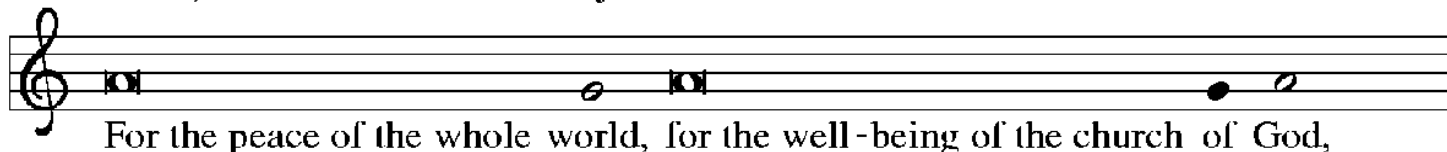
Lord, have mer - cy.



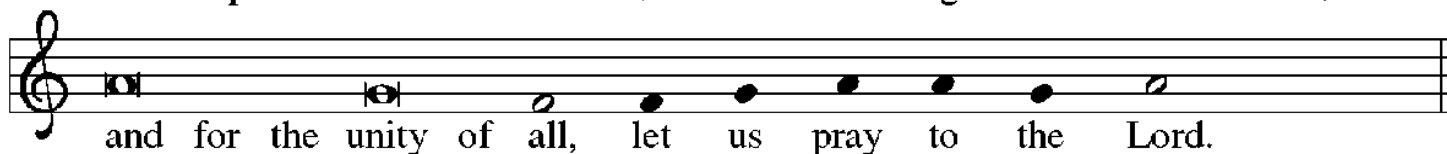
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



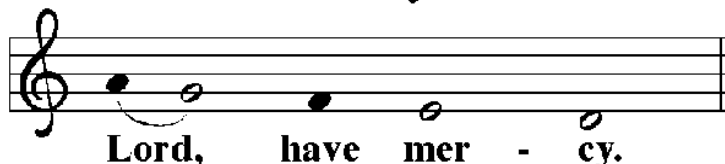
Lord, have mer - cy.



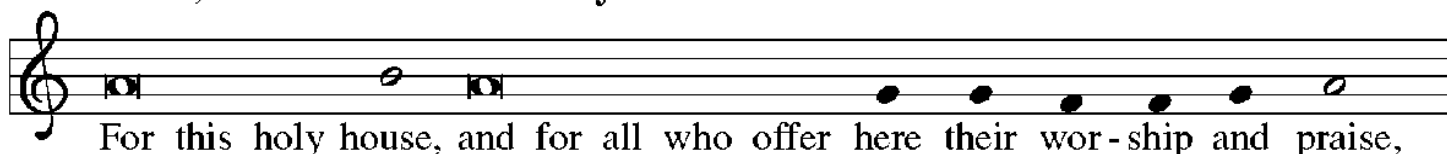
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



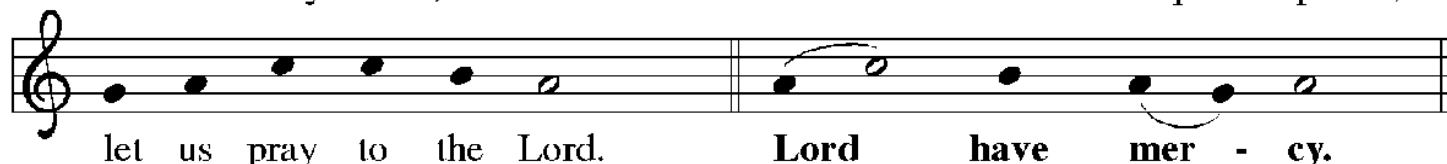
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



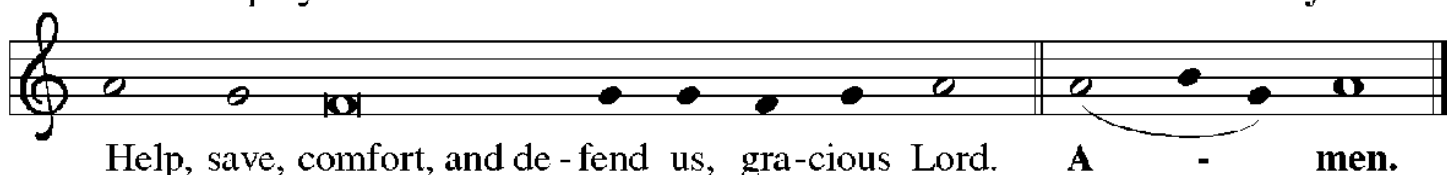
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

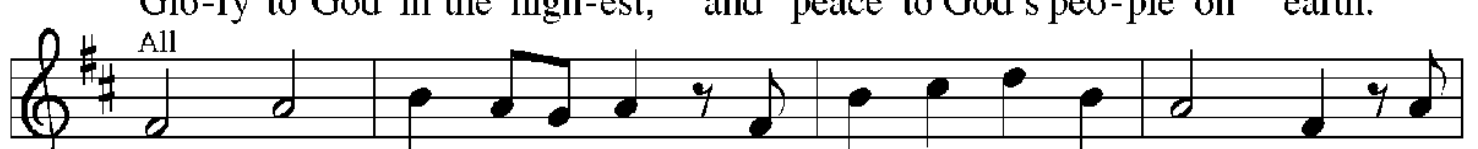
## Hymn of Praise: Glory to God

**Song Leader**




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


**All**



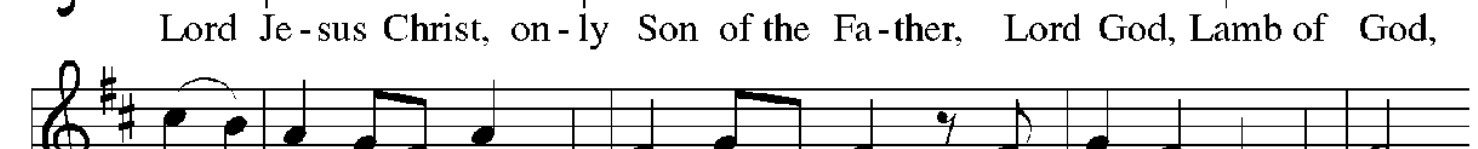
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



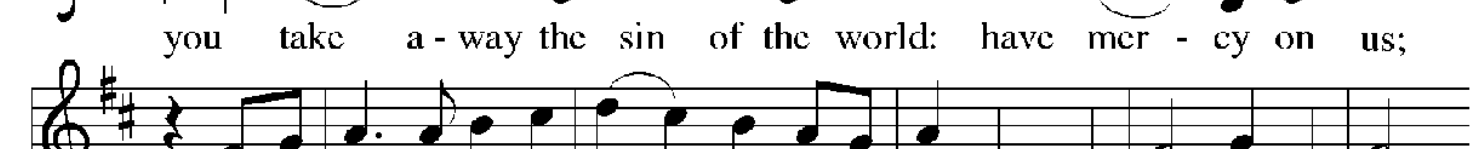
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



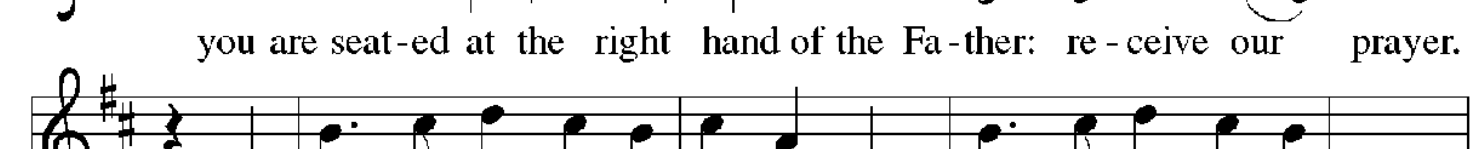
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



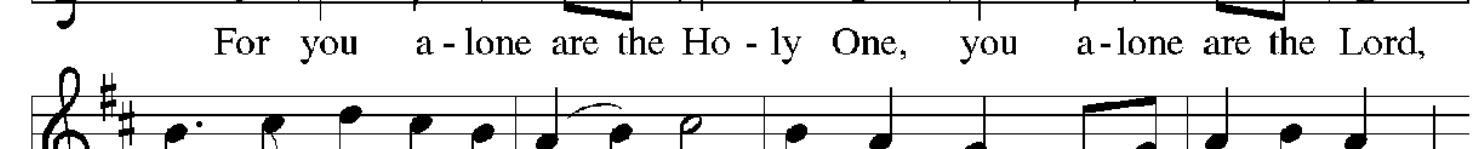
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



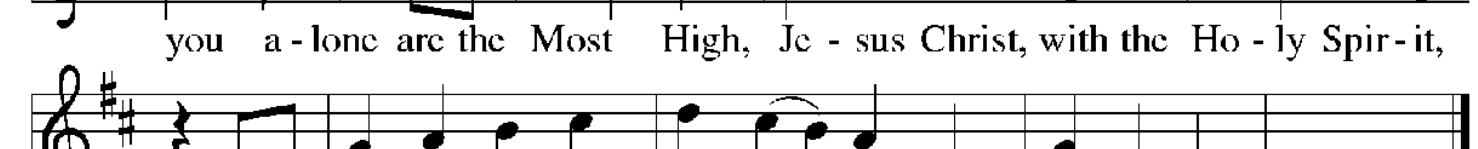
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



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:** O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

### Bell Choir: Joy to the World

### Children's Sunday School

## WORD

### The 1st lesson is a reading from Jeremiah, the 31st chapter.

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." 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. 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 in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. 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 a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 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. 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. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

### Psalm 147 (Read Responsively)

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

**God scatters hail like breadcrumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## The 2nd lesson is a reading from Ephesians, the 1st chapter.

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 John, the 1st chapter.**

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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. 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.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through

Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**Sermon:** "In Relationship with God"

Pastor David Viles

**Hymn of the Day:**

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



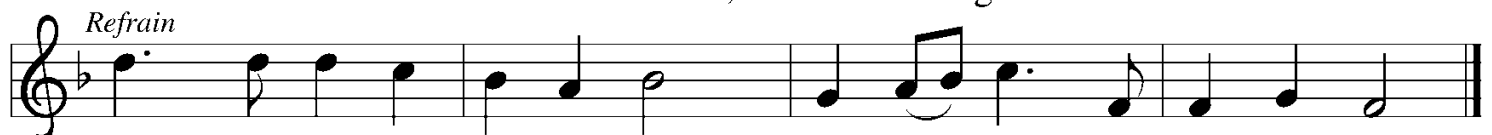
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**\* 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:**

# The First Noel

300



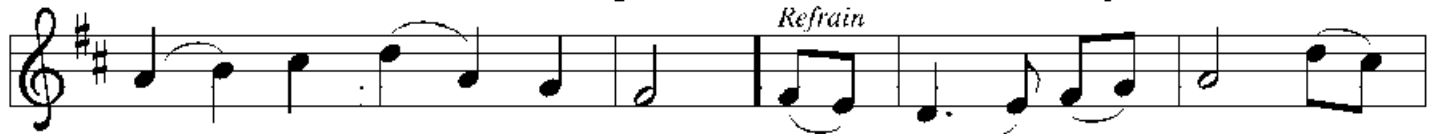
1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . . and



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL., English traditional

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

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Postlude	Pastor David Viles
Presiding Minister	Zola Finch
Organist / Keyboard	Kathy Meller
Song Leader	Lucas Plochberger
Acolyte	Dan Tschirgi
Audio / Video Technician	Audrey Bunch
Reader	AJ Ferrell
Council	Donald Weber & Marie Scheperle
Greeters	Kathryn Linsenbardt
Altar Flowers	

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Freundschaft Gruppe** – Thank you to everyone who came out Saturday to take down the Christmas tree and remove all decorations.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be January 19, 2025. All reports have been emailed to everyone who has shared an email address. If you didn't receive a report package, please pick one up in the Narthex on the table before you leave and please come and stay after worship on January 19 to find out what is happening and vote as you are led by the Holy Spirit.

**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.

**Hymn History** – At the age of 6, James Montgomery was left in a Moravian settlement in Ireland as his parents sailed away to be missionaries in Barbados. He never saw his parents again as they perished in Barbados. James was enrolled in school and never really did well there. School authorities apprenticed him to a baker and then during his teen years he drifted from one thing to another including writing poetry. In his early twenties, James found his niche writing for a local paper. He was persecuted for his unpopular opinions and spent time in jail, but he was able to purchase the newspaper and become a local celebrity. James had stayed devoted to his Christian roots and often wrote about the gospel in his newspaper. He championed the cause of foreign missions and of the British Bible Society. On Christmas eve day, 1816, James at age 45 became inspired by Luke 2:13 and the story of heralding angels. By days end, the words of our gathering song “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” were being read in the newspaper. It was first sung on Christmas Day, 1821, in a Moravian Church in England.

### **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