

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2022

5:00 pm

*Welcome to the Amherst Lutheran Campus
of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022*



Pre-Service Music: Adam Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and 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 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 name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. That's the good news! So 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!

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



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!

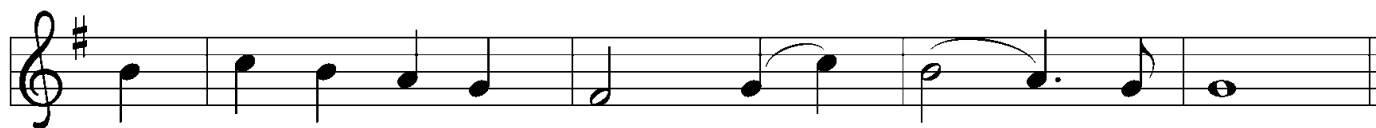


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



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

Apostolic Greeting

- P 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.

Prayer of the Day

- P 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.
- C Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

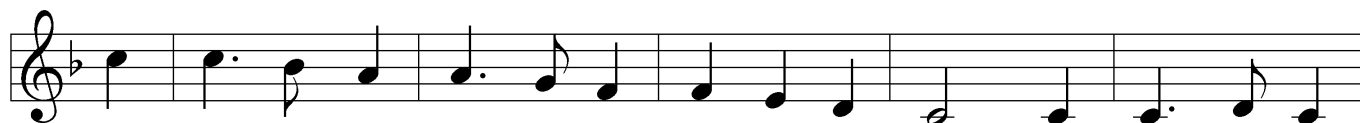
This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

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 the nation, 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. His 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.

- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

Christmas Carol and Lighting of the Christmas Candle: LBW 67 (on the following page)

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by 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 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, anonymous, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, North American, anonymous, 19th cent.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the Second Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]*

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn. In that 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. But 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, as it had been told them.]

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



Sermon: Pastor Steve Biegner

Hymn of the Day: LBW 71 (on the following page)

Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:

C 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

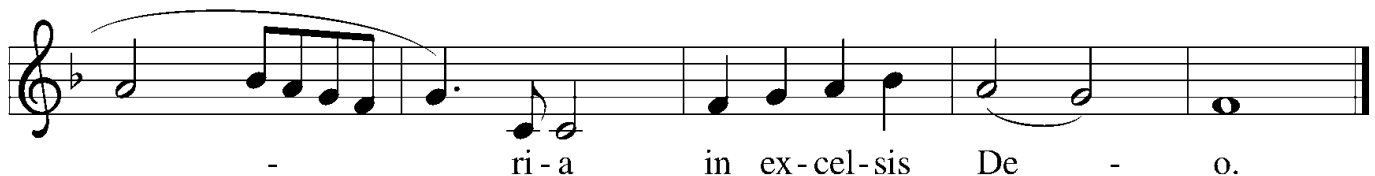
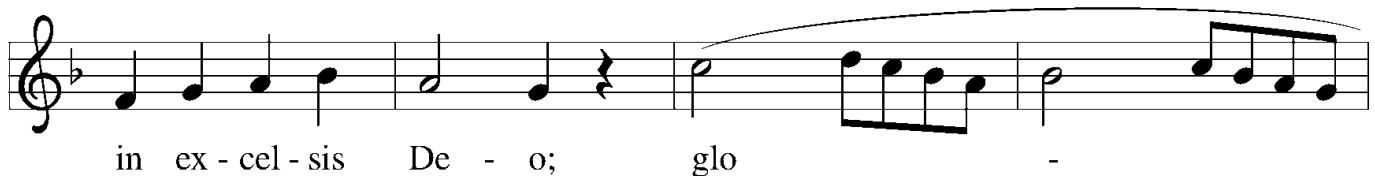
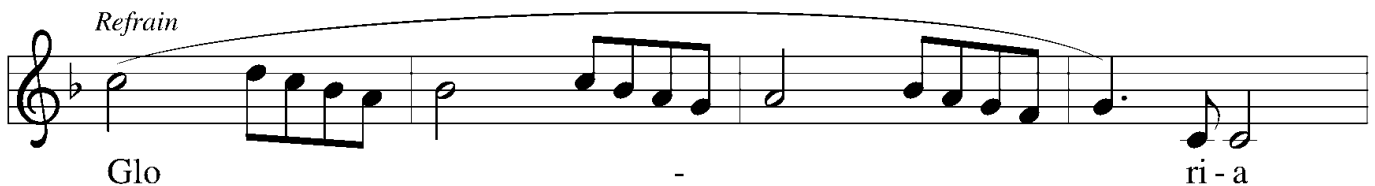
Angels We Have Heard on High



- 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.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Prayers of the Church

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. Rescue all who are overwhelmed with stories of war between nations, mass shootings, racial and gender hatred. Turn the tides Lord. Bless all those who are in the middle of these tragic events and use us to dismantle this hatred and evil and replace these stories with examples of justice, grace, and unity. Help us pray for our enemies. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain, especially the people on our Prayer List and those we name before you either silently or aloud. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis-ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional

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P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen

Dialogue and Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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 Hymn: W&P 36

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; his name is called Emmanuel.

Distribution Hymns: (please use green hymn books)

LBW 39: Joy to the World

LBW 41: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LBW 54: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and
life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



Candlelight Benediction

The Gospel of John 1:1-14

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.

(The light is passed back through the community. Please leave burning candles upright and light one another's candles down the row. When all the candles are lit, we will sing together.)

Candlelight Hymn: LBW 65: Silent Night

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!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Benediction

P 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. May this good news,
born for you, keep you in God's peace.

C Amen.

(As the lights are turned on please extinguish your candles, taking care not to drip hot wax.)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 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!



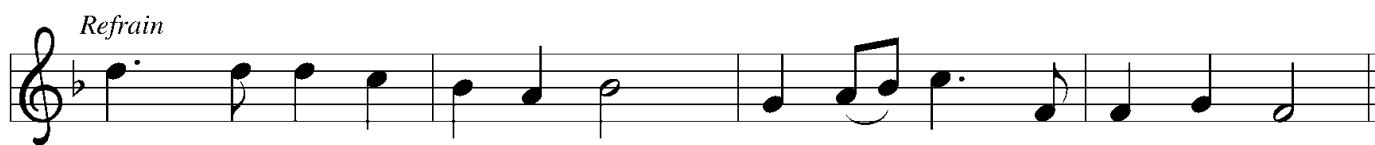
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



Refrain

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

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Christ is born! So go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 24, 2022-January 1, 2023

TODAY: Saturday, Christmas Eve

9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship at Amherst Lutheran Campus

11:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion

5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Campus Service

7:00 pm: In-Person Worship and Communion

Sunday: Christmas Day

No Church Unleashed Broadcast Today

10:00 am: In-Person Worship "Lessons and Carols" and Communion

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Monday: 4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Meal Share

Tuesday: **No Bible Study Today**

Wednesday: 8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open

6:00 pm: Alanon

Saturday: New Year's Eve

9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church

5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Campus: Transition Service

Sunday: New Year's Day

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV

10:00 am: In-Person Worship "Family Blessing" and Communion

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Prayer List: In our congregational family: (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Lee Abel: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

Neal DeLeo: Bristol village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032

Richard Elliott: 34 Pino Alto Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

Marilyn Emerson: 364 Burroughs Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

* Frank Evans: 20 Park Lane, Williamsville, NY 14221

Chad Israel and Hayley Israel

David Lampe: 73 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214

Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

Prayer List: In our and extended family: Thomas Maier; Ira Striejewske

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: 10:00 am. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also being livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

WNY Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Amherst Lutheran Church: If you cannot make St. Paul's Sunday worship service at 10:00 am, please join Amherst Lutheran's worship service on Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Thursday 12/29 from 3:00-6:30 pm. The pantry **will not be open** on Saturday 12/24. Donations for December: sugar, cooking oil, and mayonnaise.

Daily Bread Food Truck: The Daily Bread Food Truck has started its third season of Monday Meal Share. They will be serving meals between 4:30-5:30 pm in front of St. Paul's to those individuals experiencing food insecurity. We thank all of our volunteers who will make this a most successful mission. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com.

Resettlement Mission: If you would like to help support the Resettlement Mission, donations of Visa gift cards would help provide for gaps in some of the material needs. Gift cards can be dropped off at the Church Office, or put in the offering plates on Sunday.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 1: 10:00 am: Family Blessing Service at St. Paul's

Friday, January 13 through Sunday, January 15: Adult Winter Retreat at LCLC

If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the notice in the Foyer.

*Saturday, January 14: Reception of New Missionaries at Amherst Lutheran Campus
following 5:00 pm Worship Service*

*Sunday, January 15: Reception of New Missionaries at St. Paul's
following 10:00 am Worship Service*



+ St. Paul's Mission +

To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Kathryn Francis

Vice-President: David Schunak

Treasurer: William Niblock

Secretary: Gerri Horton

*Bob Brown Susan Epstein Sara Hannon
Vanessa Solomon Robert Simpson Scott Vahue*

Pastor Rev. Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell)

E-mail: steve@stpaulseggertsville.org

Director of Music: Paul H. Storfer

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

Church Office Staff: Heidi Ginal and Adrienne Leary

E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.org

Telephone: (716) 835-0407

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org