

## Christmas Eve 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hanover, PA

#### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Jason Northridge Pastor

#### **MUSICIANS**

Steven Ruppright

Director of Music Ministries and Organist

Gretchen Walter
Director of Children's Music

Lori Rebling

Director of Handbell Choir

#### **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Russ Kaltreider
Assisting Lay Minister

Donna Lehman Lay Reader

Jocelyn Fissel Acolyte

We thank all who have shared their gifts and talents to make tonight's worship lovely and meaningful.

Pastor, Emeritus
The Reverend Jack R. Hoffman

All hymns or carols for this evening are from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal found in the pew pockets in the pews. The hymn/carol number is noted in this service bulletin.

Restrooms are found through the LEFT side doors at the front of the sanctuary, and by turning LEFT and then through the double doors down the hallway.

#### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

### CHRISTMAS EVE December 24, 2025 - 7:30 PM



#### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Who Are We Waiting For"	Children's Choir	Schram
"Still, Still, Still"		Austrian Christmas carol

Children's Choir

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" Christopher
Adult Choir

"This Holy Night" McDonald
Adult Choir

"In The Bleak Midwinter" Schram

Women's Ensemble

"Cradle Songs" arr. Ackers

Bell Choir

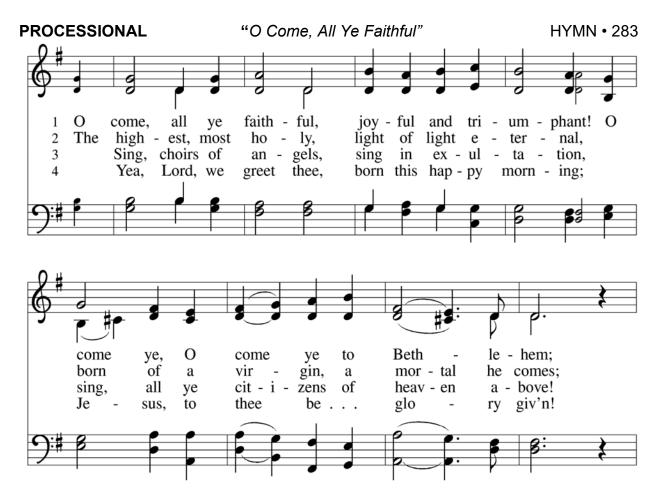


#### THE GATHERING

The people's responses (C) are in **bold**.

Stand as you are comfortable and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

#### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH





#### GREETING

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

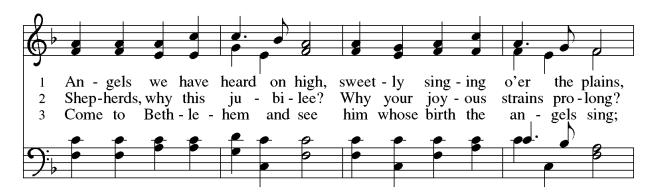
May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

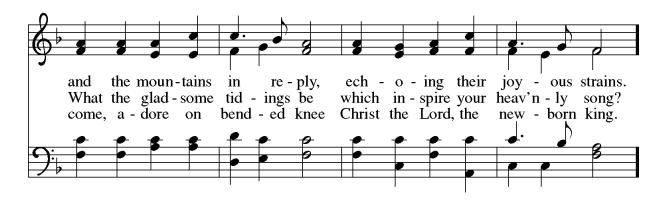
And also with you.

#### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

HYMN • 289







#### 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.

Please be seated.

#### THE WORD

#### CHRIST'S BIRTH IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

**LESSON** Matthew 1:18-24

- A reading according to St. Matthew, the first chapter

  18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother
  Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found
  to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous
  man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her
  quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared
  to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary
  as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear
  a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their
  sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the
  prophet: 23 Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name
  him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from
  sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.
  The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Emmanuel, El Shaddai"
Handbell Choir

arr Tucker

**LESSON** Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading according to St. Luke, the first chapter <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34 Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 35The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

C Thanks be to God.

The word of the Lord.

**ANTHEM** 

"Once in David's Royal City"
Adult Choir

Raney

**LESSON** Luke 1:39-45, 56

A reading according to St. Luke, the first chapter

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter

#### C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

<sup>15</sup>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.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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.

Please be seated.

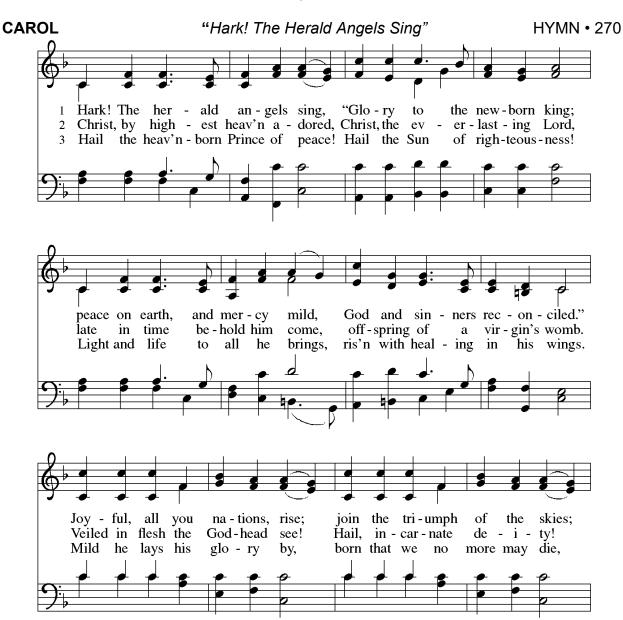


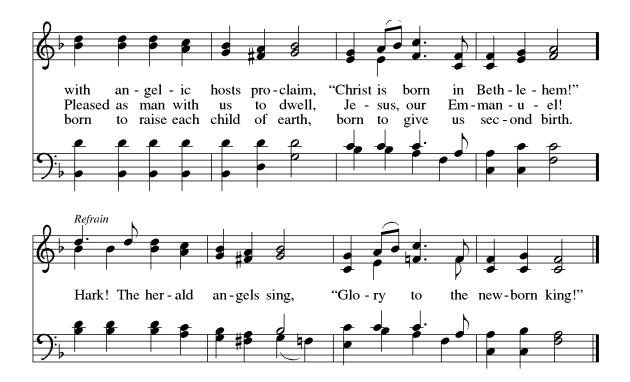
#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### **SERMON**

Pastor Jason Northridge

Please stand as you are comfortable.





#### **NICENE CREED**

- A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

#### C Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares (*especially in . . . specific instances of conflict may be named*). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### Amen.

#### THE MEAL

#### THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

#### Please be seated.

There are several ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates as they are passed. You can give electronically at <a href="https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give">https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give</a> or scan this QR Code and when the plate passes by, you may simply meditate on the gifts that you are currently making online or monthly. We do have cards that you can put in the plate indicating that you give electronically. A supply of those cards is available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

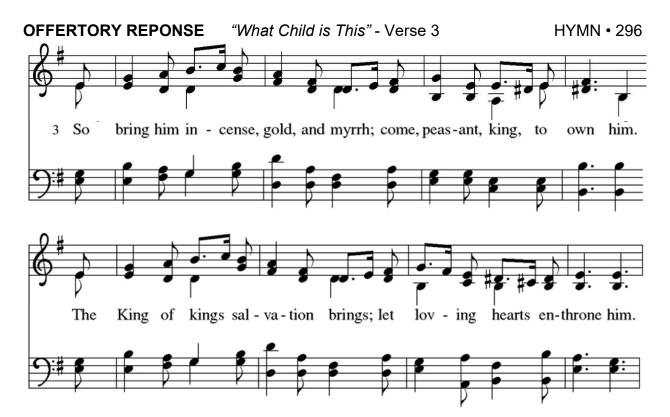


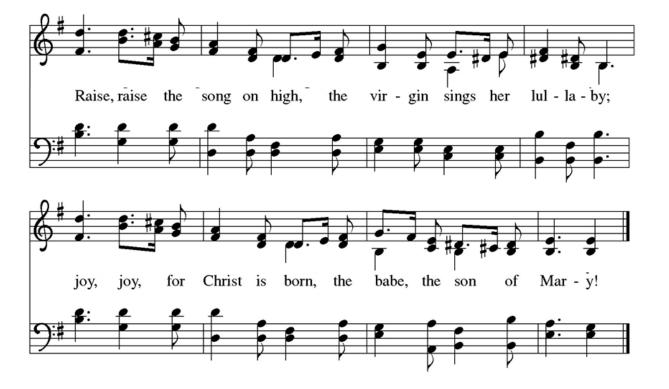
If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you can give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"
Adult Choir

Larson





Stand as you are comfortable.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

#### **DIALOGUE**

P The Lord be with you.

C 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.

#### **PREFACE**

P 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

#### **SANCTUS**

"Of The Father's Love Begotten"

**HYMN • 295** 

1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

#### C Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Please be seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Please move at the direction of the ushers into the center aisle.

Take an empty glass from the tray before receiving the bread. If you wish to receive wine, proceed to the server next in line. If you wish to receive grape juice go to the server facing the altar.

Empty cups are placed in the baskets on either side as you return to your seats.

Gluten-free wafers are available:

please make your need known to the Pastor or the Assisting Minister.

If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of receiving Communion, please let the Pastor or the Assisting Minister know.

Those who wish to have Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

#### **COMMUNION ANTHEMS**

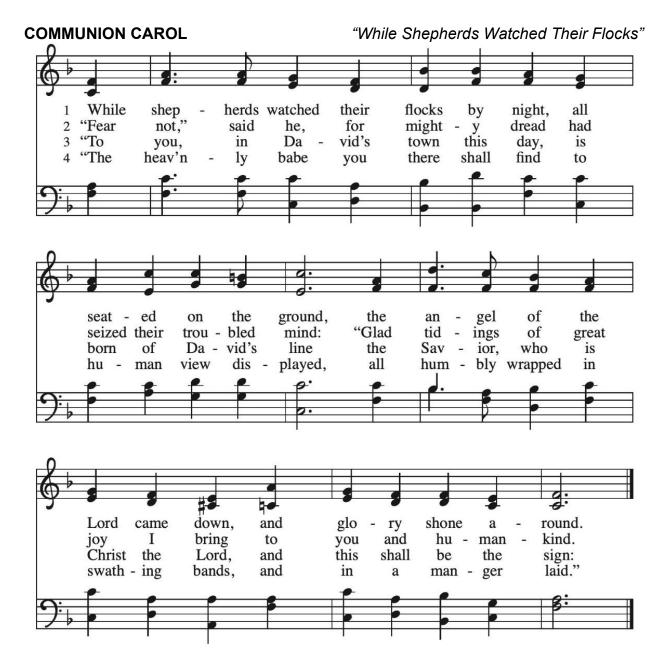
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. by McChesney

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. by Groth/McChesney

Handbell Choir



- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!"

Stand as you are comfortable.

#### COMMUNION BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his peace.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A 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.

The sanctuary is darkened.

LESSON John 1:1-14

P <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <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.

The light of all individual candles comes from the Christ candle, symbolizing the light that no darkness can overcome.

Individual candles are lit and passed down the pews. Lit candles remain upright.

Tip unlit candles to lit ones to receive the light.

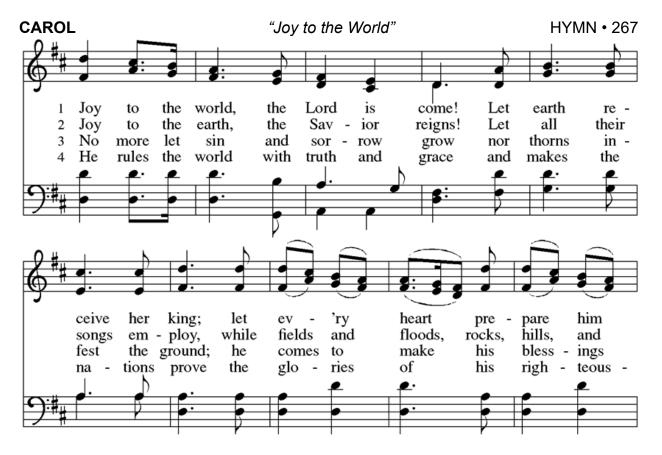


#### BLESSING

P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

#### C Amen.

#### The candles are extinguished.





#### DISMISSAL

- A Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
- C We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

Notes on the service:

Portions from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103665

"Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream some or all of the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-707280. All rights reserved."

"Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream some or all of the music in this service obtained from CCLI with license #A-779220. All rights reserved.

"God In This Child" words and music by Bryan Sharpe
© 2019 Lorenz Corporation All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.
All rights reserved.

"In The Bleak Mod Winter" arr. By Ruth Elaine Schram © 2019 BriLee Music All Rights Reserved

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.

All rights reserved.

"Once in Royal David's City" words and music by Joel Raney © 2018 Hope Publishing Company Lorenz Corporation All Rights Reserved -

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.

All rights reserved.

"This Holy Night" words and music by Mary McDonald
© 2016, 2019 Hope Publishing Company
All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.
All rights reserved.

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo!" arr. Lloyd Larson
©2019 Hope Publishing Company
All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.

"Cradle Songs" arr. by Michael Akers
© 2005 Lorenz Corporation All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.

All rights reserved.

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" arr. by McChesney
© 1999 Jeffers Handbell Supply used with permission of Jeffers Handbell Supply
All rights reserved.

All rights reserved.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" arr. By Groth/McChesney
© 2011 Jeffers Handbell Supply
used with permission of Jeffers Handbell Supply
All rights reserved

"Emmanuel, El Shaddai" arr. by Sondra Tucker
© 2025 by Word Music LLC and Jubilato Music Group –
All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.
All rights reserved.

"Who Are We Waiting For" words and music by Ruth Schram
© 2017 Hal Leonard LLC
All Rights Reserved

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280. All rights reserved.

"A Song Of Jesus' Birth" words and music by David Stocker
© 1978 Choristers Guild All Rights Reserved
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-707280.
All rights reserved.

# 2025 Poinsettias and donations to World Hunger are given to the Glory of God and



## Two large poinsettias beside the altar

are in memory of Kenneth Wolfe by Deb Wolfe and Karen McMaster.

## Poinsettias - In memory of...

Charles McConville by loving McConville family.

Charles McConville by loving wife, Pat.

Gabriel, Jan and Diane Cromer by Lynn and JoAnn Cromer.

Ginny, Pete and Gary Peterson by Ginny and Matthew Murray and Angelo and Jen Ricardo.

(2) Herbert and Cas Wildasin by Lynn and JoAnn Cromer.

Kathy Little by Phil Little.

Kenneth and Doris Cromer by the family.

Larry Zumbrum by Judy Zumbrum.

our parents, Gene and Ruth Stough, and John Gladys Riley by Doug and Kim Riley.

(2)Robert and Pearl, James and Richard Bowersox by Belinda and Jim, Allen, Debby, Heather and Bob.

## Poinsettias - In honor of...

our children and grandson, Alex, Erica, Ryan and Miles by Doug and Kim Riley.

our grandchildren, Brooklyn, Braxton, Hudson and Hadley by Brian and Cindy Selby.

Dee and Brandon Chambers and Ali and Jay Yonkovitch by Brian and Cindy Selby.

## World Hunger - In memory of...

Clark and Mabel Barrick by Joan, Brenda and Elaine.

Fred and Sylvia Marsh, Donald Rebling and Celeste Marsh by the Rebling family.

Gervis and Gladys Sponseller by Barbara Rudisill.

Herbert and Anneliese Hueske by Frank and Pam Hueske.

James and Gladys George by Toby and Sally Lovelace.

Joe and Roma Hicks by Frank and Pam Hueske.

John C. Rudisill by Barbara Rudisill.

John, Mildred, Elizabeth, Gary and Kirby Hoke by Michelle and Ben Ager, Tim Hoke and Mike Hoke.

Kathryn Landis by Sherry Cracium-Bolin and Carl Landis.

Kenneth and Doris Cromer by the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Zellers by Leroy and Linda Zellers and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Spangler by Leroy and Linda Zellers and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Evans by Leroy and Linda Zellers and family.

Orville and Viola James by Gary and Sallie Smith.

Rob Lovelace by Toby and Sally Lovelace.

## World Hunger - In memory of...

Robert and Mary Lovelace by Toby and Sally Lovelace.

Robert and Pearl, James and Richard Bowersox by Belinda and Jim, Allen, Debby, Heather and Bob.

the families of Miller's and McIntyre's by Connie and Dale McIntyre.

## World Hunger - In honor of...

our grandchildren, Brooklyn, Braxton, Hudson and Hadley by Brian and Cindy Selby.

Dee and Brandon Chambers and Ali and Jay Yonkovitch by Brian and Cindy Selby.

Kortni, Chris, Dilynn and Kolten Long by Toby and Sally Lovelace.

Toby, Jr., Kacie and Saylor Lovelace by Toby and Sally Lovelace.

Lois Hoke by Michelle and Ben Ager, Tim Hoke and Mike Hoke.

**THE COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE** is sponsored to the glory of God by the Kaltreider family.

**THE WORSHIP BULLETINS** are sponsored to the glory of God in memory of Kenneth R. Wolfe by Nadine and family.

#### Contact any of the following for more information or conversation:

Rev. Jason Northridge <u>srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org</u> 717-467-1644

Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries <u>musicdept@stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music <u>stpaulschildrensmusic@gmail.com</u>

Lori Rebling, Director of Handbells <u>handbelldir@stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Carmen Buckley, Administrative Assistant Church Office: 717-637-5941 <u>assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Website: www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst



## Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas!