

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Multi-Generational Christmas Program*  
*December 17, 2017*



*Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister*  
*Rita Jordan, Organist*  
*Mary Maddox, Lay Reader*

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# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.*

**PRELUDE: *Get Ready For The Baby***

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*The assembly stands.*

Leader: Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those who please God.**

Leader: Once again the world is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

People: **Let us go to Bethlehem to see what god has made known to us.**

Leader: There in Bethlehem and here today at St. Paul's, we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

People: **Let us glorify and praise God for all that we have seen and heard!**

Leader: The Lord Be With You!

People: **And Also With You!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The assembly is seated.*

**OPENING SONG: *Lord I Lift Your Name On High* (Youth and Shelley Gibbens and Dena Witte)**

# Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**Narrator:**

## **First Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. <sup>27</sup> He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. <sup>31</sup> You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. <sup>33</sup> The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. <sup>37</sup> That's because what God says will always come true."

<sup>38</sup> "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Word of God. Word of Life

**Thanks be to God!**

**Song: *Here I Am*  
(sung by Sean O'Brien)**

**Narrator:**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1 & 2) ELW 279***

**Narrator:**

***Away in a Manger ELW 277***

**Narrator:**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW 270***

**Narrator:**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283***

**Narrator:**

***Do You Hear What I Hear***

Said the night wind to the little lamb  
Do you see what I see  
Way up in the sky little lamb  
Do you see what I see  
A star, a star  
Dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the Shepard boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
Ringing through the sky Shepard boy  
Do you hear what I hear  
A song, a song  
High above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the Shepard boy to the mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
In your palace wall mighty king  
Do you know what I know  
A child, a child  
Shivers in the cold  
Let us bring him silver and gold  
Let us bring him silver and gold

**Narrator:**

**Song: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* ELW 290**  
***Please move to the front of the sanctuary during the song, as you are able.***

**HERE WE ARE IN THE STABLE:**

**PASTOR ARDEN DORN**

**PRAYERS**

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** We bring our gifts and place them in the manger.

## OFFERING SONG

## *Beside Thy Manager Here I Stand*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with your love,  
that our faith shine ever new  
and our lives reveal your light.  
**Amen.**

Der Heiden Heiland, kommen.  
Ihr Haus hier in uns.  
Ernähren uns mit deiner Liebe,  
daß unser Glaube/ immer neue  
und unser Leben dein Licht offenbaren. **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

### **DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.**

*This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

The shepherds received a message of joy!

*"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" ~ Luke 2:7-15*

## CELEBRATION HYMN (ELW p. 267) *Joy to the World*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

# Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

**A Nursery** is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

**If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

## For Prayerful Consideration

### ***Ill or Injured***

Elvira Boehm, Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Steve Scotten, Tom Shockome, Marlane Smith, Yvonne Watkins, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow.

### ***For those in the military***

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

### ***Birthday***

Orlis Jonas (Dec. 19)

**Our condolences to the Family and Friends of Jackie Tiemann. A visitation will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. today at Rhodes Funeral home. Funeral Services will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 18, at St. Paul's with Graveside Service to follow immediately at Mueller Cemetery in Hobson.**

**Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School**

**10:30 a.m. – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Worship Service**

**7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. – Service of the Word**