



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2nd Sunday of Christmas January 5, 2025

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Worship Leadership Team B

Musician: Sheila Seidemann

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: Fellowship Baptist

Synod: Christ Lutheran in Kelowna – Rev. Barbara Groote Shared Ministries in BC Synod

ACC: Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

ELCIC: Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership; Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

MOR: The Rev. Jason Andersen, president of the Western District Executive Board of the Moravian Church Northern Province

Discipleship Opportunities

1. Worship Team Next Week: Team C

2. Council Chair, Tom Kertes will hold office hours each Wednesday from 4:45-6:45. In emergencies, you may contact him outside of office hours at 778-884-5343.

3. Our monthly game night is tonight, Jan 5. Potluck at 6:00 with games to follow.

4. Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for January 26 following worship. This meeting will cover our annual budget and our AGM. Plan to be in attendance for this very important meeting. The meeting will take place in person as well as by Zoom.

Announcements

Gathering Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

No. 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

Greeting

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

And also with you.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Scripture Song

pg. 47 (blue)



☛ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

I Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;
 just and true are your ways, O Rul-er of all the na-tions.
 Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?
 Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.
 II For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All
 na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,
 for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.
 Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together our Prayer of the Day.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Our first reading is from Jeremiah beginning at the 31st chapter

31:7-14

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,

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We read Psalm 147: 12-20 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 bread crumbs. 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!

Our second reading is from Ephesians beginning at the 1st chapter

1:3-14

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 48 (blue)

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

The holy gospel according to John, beginning at the 1st Chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

1:[1-9] 10-18

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
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Heralds Angels Sing

No. 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.

Continued on next page

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

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.
 Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith, using the words of the
 Apostles' Creed. We confess:

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
 power of 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

A brief silence.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

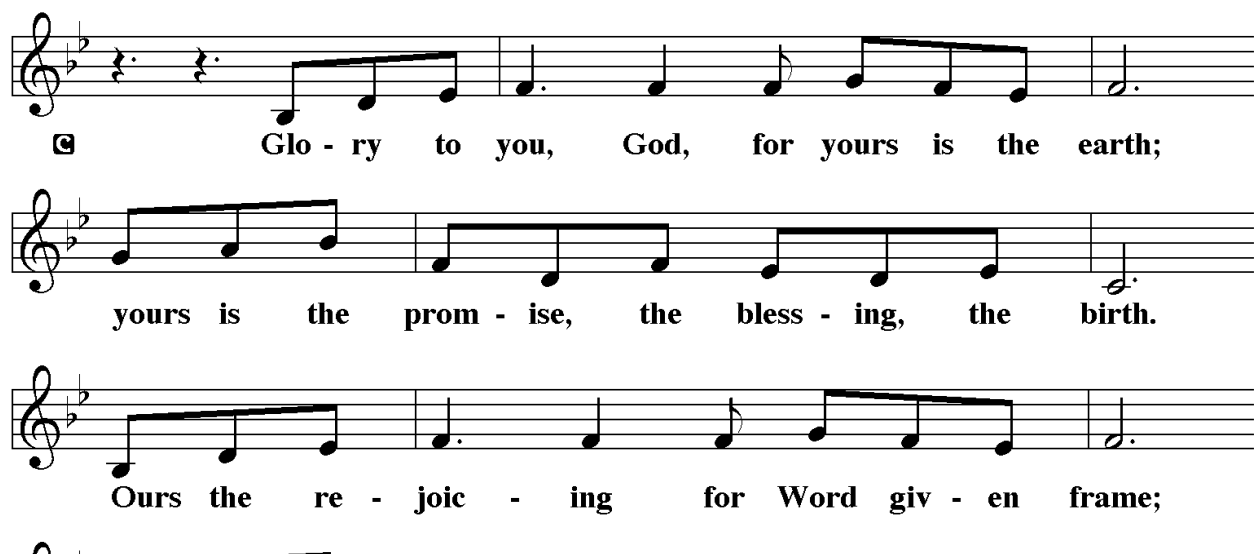
Siblings, sisters, and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may share the peace with those in the building and online in whatever way is comfortable to them. Nods, peace signs, hand shaking etc. are acceptable with consent.

Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church, placed in our mailbox, sent by e-transfer to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca, or given at CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;

Continued on next page



Offering 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.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. Hearing the words "God of grace," God's people may reply, "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using whatever version of that prayer comforts you. We pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

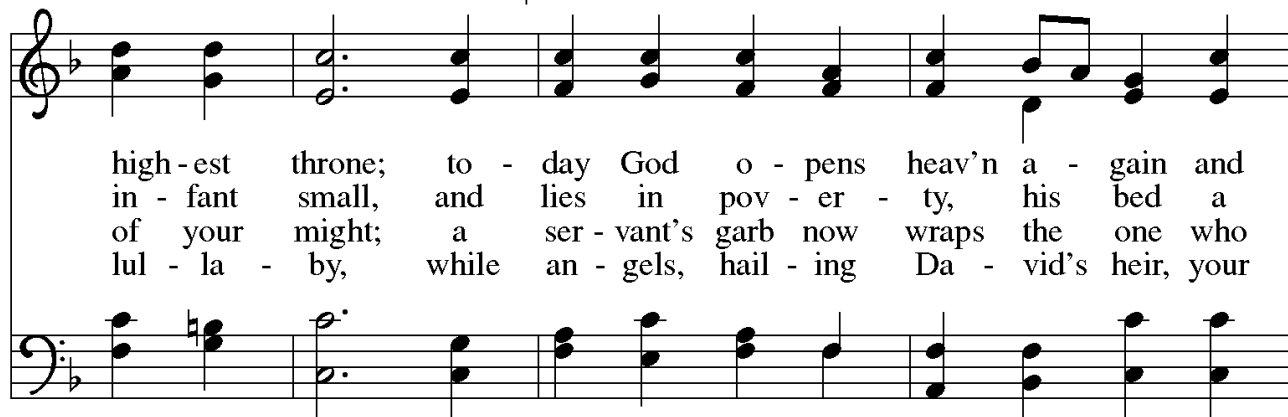
Sending Hymn

Let All Together Praise Our God

No. 287



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
 you take our flesh and blood,
 and in return give us to share
 the shining realm of God,
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
 that leads to paradise;
 the angel bars the way no more.
 To God let praises rise,
 to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
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Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.
Thanks be to God.