

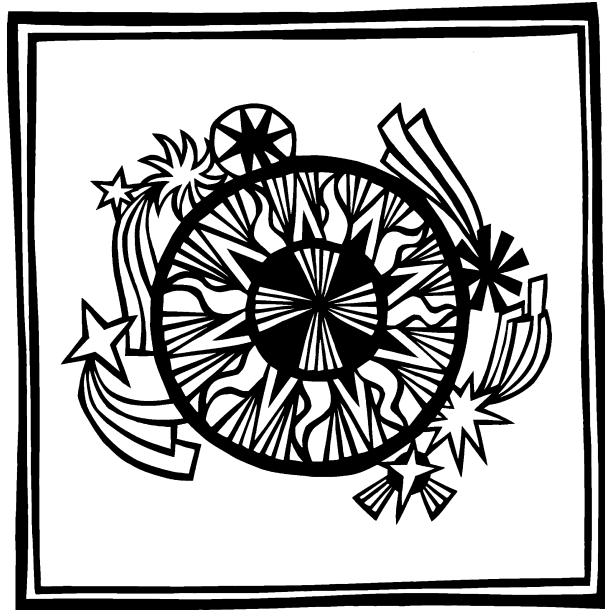
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# Worship & Holy Communion

## Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 5, 2025      9:30 a.m.

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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.

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### *In God's Service*

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Mary Groh
Reader:	Diana Black
Ushers	Diana Black & Diane Murphy

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## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God with us,

**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.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✝️ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

***Angels, from the Realm of Glory***

***ELW 275***

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

## **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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE      *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*      *ELW 276 Vs 2***

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.*

*Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

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**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

### **Psalm 147:12-20**

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion.

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

The will of God made known in Christ

### **John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

God with us: the incarnation of  
the Word

A reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>7</sup> 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." <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: (Please read responsively)**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;

**praise your God, O Zion,**

<sup>13</sup> who has strengthened the bars of your gates

**and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders

**and satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

<sup>15</sup> God sends out a command to the earth,

**a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,

**scattering<sup>l</sup> frost like ashes.**

<sup>17</sup> God scatters hail like bread crumbs.

**Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;

**the wind blows, and the waters flow.**

<sup>19</sup> God declares the word to Jacob,

**statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;

**they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!**

A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> 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** *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<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. <sup>15</sup> (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.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**





1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*The assembly stands*

## CREED

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

**P:** O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly.

**C:** **In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love.**

**P:** You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth.

**C:** **As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions.**

**P:** You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes.

**C:** **Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials.**

**P:** You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness.

**C:** **Grant us compassion in our care for your people.**

**P:** You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation

**C:** **Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us.**

**P:** You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones.

**C:** **We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you.**

**P:** We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

***ELW 270***

***Vs 3***

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!**

**Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**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**

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Feel free to recite either translation of the Lord's Prayer at this time.*

#### **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.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.*

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*(The assembly is seated)*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*The assembly stands.*

*Accompanist Choice*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

**Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.**

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG

# The First Noel

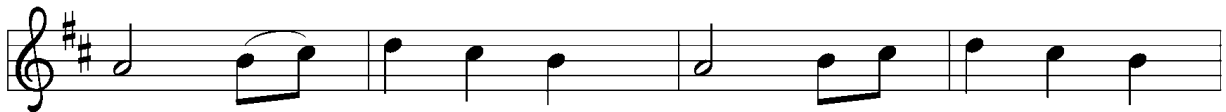
ELW 300 Vs 1,2,5



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

### Refrain



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



## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Calendar**

### **This Week:**

Sunday, Jan. 5	9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 am Fellowship
Monday, Jan. 6	9:00 am Quilting OS 9:30 am Quilting SP
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Noon Worship Planning SP
Wednesday, Jan. 8	9:00 am Community Kitchen OS 9:30 M&M's/WELCA SP 2:00 pm Anniversary Comm. Meeting OS

### **Next Week:**

Sunday, Jan. 12	9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Joint Council Meeting 2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP
Monday, Jan. 13	9:00 am Quilters OS 9:30 am Quilters SP
Wednesday, Jan. 15	9:30 am M&M's SP
Thursday, Jan. 16	4:00 pm Community Kitchen SP

## Announcements

**Financial and Written Reports for the Annual Meeting Reports for Our Saviour's and St Paul** are due in the offices by Monday Jan. 6. Any questions, please contact Marilyn 641-425-9048, Nancy 641-420-6562, Valerie 641-423-7749 or leave a message in the church office at 641-423-3363 OS, 641-423-7749 SP.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting for St Paul** is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th, following the church service.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting for Our Saviour's** is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th, following the church service.

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

**Reminder:** the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday by 9 a.m.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com) if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

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***St Paul Lutheran Church***

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641-423-7749 | [secretary@stpaulmc.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulmc.org)

***Our Saviour's Lutheran Church***

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