



*Welcome to*  
**SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

**Third Sunday in Advent**

December 14, 2025

"In Nomine Iesu"

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**Welcome and Merry Christmas** from the St. Paul's Lutheran Children's Choir! We are so glad you have joined us today for our adaptation of *'Twas the Night Before: A Christmas Musical*, based on the play by Rachel Olson. The children have been working very hard to prepare this message for you, and we appreciate all who were involved in readying them for this special day. We hope you enjoy our retelling of the birth of Christ through poetry and song, and pray for God's blessings to you all during this most special season!

So that we may all celebrate your presence and give thanks to God for you, **members and guests** alike are asked to please fill out the registration card found in your pew rack. Please hand them to an usher as you leave the sanctuary.

**Matins**, an Order of Worship for the morning, originated around the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Christians observed 'times of day' for private devotions. These private "hours" developed into public services. Matins is marked by the thought of praise to God as Creator and Redeemer. We hope you enjoy the Service of Matins.

We pray you have been blessed through this worship and will join us again soon.

**Prelude** “*O Jesus So Sweet*” (flute, harp) by John Behnke  
“*Rejoice, Rejoice!*” (chimes) arr. By Cathy Moklebust  
**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Ringing of the Bell ~ A Call to Worship**

**The Order of Worship**  
Lutheran Service Book -Matins page 219

**Opening Hymn**

“*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*”                    LSB #336

**Opening Versicles (please stand)**



Music notation for the Opening Versicles hymn, featuring four staves of music with lyrics in blue boxes. The music is in common time, G major, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are:

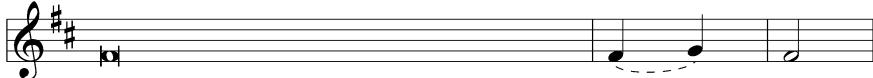
L O Lord, o - pen my lips,  
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;  
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

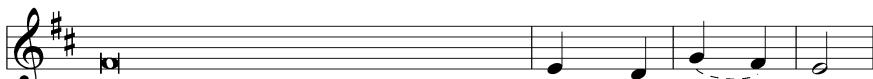
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

## Venite



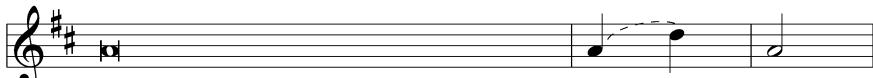
**C** 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,  
2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God  
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

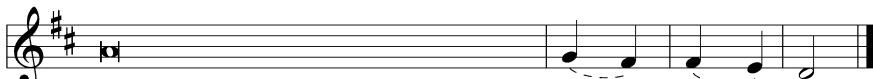


**C** 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.  
2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.  
3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry land.

5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;



**C** 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,  
2 The deep places of the earth are . . . . . in His hand;  
3 O come, let us worship and . . . . . bow down,  
4 For He . . . . . is our God,  
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



**C** 1 let us make a joyful noise to . . . . . Him with songs of praise.  
2 the strength of the hills is . . . . . His al - so.  
3 let us kneel before the . . . . . Lord, our mak - er.  
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep - of His hand.  
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## Introit *Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

P Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**C** again I will say, Rejoice.

P I will hope continually  
**C** and will praise you yet more and more.

P My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
**C** for their number is past my knowledge.

P With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;  
C **I will remind them of your righteousness,  
yours alone.**

P O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
C **and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

P So even to old age and gray hairs, O God,  
do not forsake me,

**C** until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

All      Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P      Rejoice in the Lord always;  
C      again I will say, Rejoice.

*(be seated)*

## Chime Choir      “Gentle Mary”      arr. By Cathy Moklebust

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall

become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P        O Lord, have mercy on us.

C        **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

*James 5:7-11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P        O Lord, have mercy on us.

C        **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

## **Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 11:2-15*

P        The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P        O Lord, have mercy on us.  
C        **Thanks be to God.**

*(be seated)*

### **Responsory Hymn**

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

LSB #374

**Message**

**Children’s Program**

*O little Town of Bethlehem*

*Away in a Manger*

*On Christmas Night all Christians Sing*

## **Presentation of the Offering**    "Silent Night" (saxophone)

### **Te Deum ~ We Praise You, O God (please stand)**

1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.  
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.

1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.  
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.  
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:

1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'r's there - in.  
2 The glorious company of the apostles . . . . . praise You.  
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;  
4 You are the king of glory, . . . . . O Christ;

1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:  
2 The goodly fellowship of the . . . . . proph - ets praise You.  
3 also the Holy . . . . . Ghost, the Com - fort - er.  
4 You are the everlasting Son . . . . . of the Fa - - - - - ther.

5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,  
6 You sit at the right . . . . . hand of God

5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - - - - - gin.  
6 in the glory . . . . . of the Fa - - - - - ther.

5 When You had overcome the . . . . . sharpness of death,  
6 We believe that . . . . . You will come

5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - - - - - ers.  
6 to . . . . . be our judge.

(continued on the next page)

7 We therefore pray You to help Your  
 8 *O Lord, save Your people and bless Your*  
 9 *Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with* - - - - -  
 ser - - - - - vants,  
 her - i - - - tage.  
 out sin.

7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.  
 8 *Govern them and lift . . . . them up for - ev - - er.*  
 9 *O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.*

7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints  
 8 *Day by day we magni - fy You.*  
 9 *O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.*

7 in glory ev - er - last - - ing.  
 8 *And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.*  
 9 *O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.*

## Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy. C Hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

All 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.**

**Collect of the Day**

P O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Benedicamus (please stand)**

P Let us bless the Lord  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**    “*O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*”   LSB #372

**Silent Prayer**

*(be seated)*

**Postlude**

“*Soli Deo Gloria*”

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## Christmas Worship Schedule

### Advent Worship

December 17

6:30 p.m.

Pre-Service Meal 5-6 p.m.



### Christmas Carol Worship

Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m. And 10:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day Worship (with Communion)

Thursday, December 25

9:00 a.m.



★  
JESUS  
SAVIOR  
MESSIAH  
REDEEMER  
EMMANUEL  
KING OF KINGS  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR  
THE WAY  
THE TRUTH  
THE LIFE