

John 1:14  
And the Word became flesh  
and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the  
only Son  
from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

**SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Christmas Carol Service**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

December 21, 2025

"In Nomine Iesu"

915 - 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion, Iowa 52302  
e-mail: [office@stpaulsmaioniowa.org](mailto:office@stpaulsmaioniowa.org)  
[www.mystpauls.org](http://www.mystpauls.org)  
Phone: (319)377-4687

## **The Word Became Flesh**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have  
seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of  
grace and truth.*

John 1:14

A blessed Christmas welcome to all who gather in the house of the Lord to sing praises to the newborn King, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **The members of St. Paul's Adult Choir wish you all a very blessed Christmas!** Enjoy the singing and the praises raised this morning. The choir invites you to share Christmas refreshments following worship.

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.

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells**

**Opening Hymn**      *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*      LSB #379

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: Refrain  
Refrain:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

**Verse 2 – Choir ONLY**

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain  
  
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

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**Invocation and Call to Worship** *(please stand)*

**P**      In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**      **Amen.**

**P**      And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
**C**      **And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only  
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**P**      Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done  
marvelous things!

**C**      **His right hand and His holy arm have worked  
salvation for Him.**

P The Lord has made known His salvation;  
C **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C **Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

C **with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

P With trumpets and the sound of the horn

C **Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

C **And we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*(be seated)*

### **Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his

kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Hymn**    *“Savior of the Nations, Come”*    LSB #332 vs 1, 3, 6

Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

For You are the Father’s Son  
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.  
By Your mighty pow’r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

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## **Luke 1:26-33**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He 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 father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**St. Paul's Choir**  
*"Advent Promise"*  
By Ruth Elaine Schram

**Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn** *"O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"*      LSB #372 vs 1-3

O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.

He whom the sea And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,  
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The pow'r of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.

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Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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**A Reading from:** “*God Came Near*” by Max Lucado

Mary looks into the face of the baby. Her son. Her Lord. His Majesty. At this point in history the human being who best understands who God is and what he is doing is a teenage girl in a stable. Somehow Mary knows she is holding God. So it is he. She remembers the words of the angel. “His kingdom will never end.” He looks like anything but a king. He is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being. Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of the stable. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable. She touches the face of the infant-God!

**St. Paul’s Choir**

“*Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven*”

Arr. By Lloyd Larson

Verse 1: Soloist Hilary Brech

Verse 2: Choir

(continued on next page)

### **Verse 3: Congregation**

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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### **Luke 2:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

### **St. Paul's Choir**

*"Christmas Sanctus"*

By Susan and Lee Dengler

### **A Reading from: "God Came Near" by Max Lucado**

It all happened in a moment, a most remarkable moment. As moments go, that one appeared no different than any other. It was one of the countless moments that have marked time since eternity became measurable. But in reality, that particular moment was like none other. For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred. God became a man. While the creatures of the earth walked unaware, Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb. The omnipotent, in one instant, made himself breakable. He who had been spirit became pierce able. God had come near.



## Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  
This is most certainly true.

**Offerings will be brought forward during the hymns:**

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*      LSB #380 vs 1-2

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

Refrain

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**Hymn**      *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*      LSB #368

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

(continued on next page)

Refrain:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Refrain:

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Refrain

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### **Luke 2:13-18**

<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,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

**St. Paul's Choir**  
*"Gospel Nativity Carol"*  
By Susan and Lee Dengler

### **Prayers**

**P** O Lord our God,  
You saw us in our sin and need.  
**C** **We praise You for the gift of a Savior, Son of God  
and Son of Man!**

P You proclaimed your plan of salvation through the mouths of the prophets

C **We praise You for the gift of a Savior, Son of God and Son of Man!**

P When the time was right, you sent your own Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin.

C **We praise You for the gift of a Savior, Son of God and Son of Man!**

P With grateful hearts and voices, we glorify You for Your great love and mercy, shown to us by the baby in the manger, His death on the cross and His victorious resurrection!

C **We praise You for the gift of a Savior, Son of God and Son of Man!**

P Grant that we grow in faith and share the story of your love and grace in all we say and do.

C **We praise You for the gift of a Savior, Son of God and Son of Man! Amen.**

(After each portion of the prayers)

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

P Let us pray for the whole Church 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.

**St. Paul's Choir**

*"Sing Gloria!"*

By Mark Hayes

**Benediction** (*please stand*)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and (+) give you peace.

C Amen.

**Closing Hymn**      *"Joy to the World"*      LSB #387 vs 1, 3-4

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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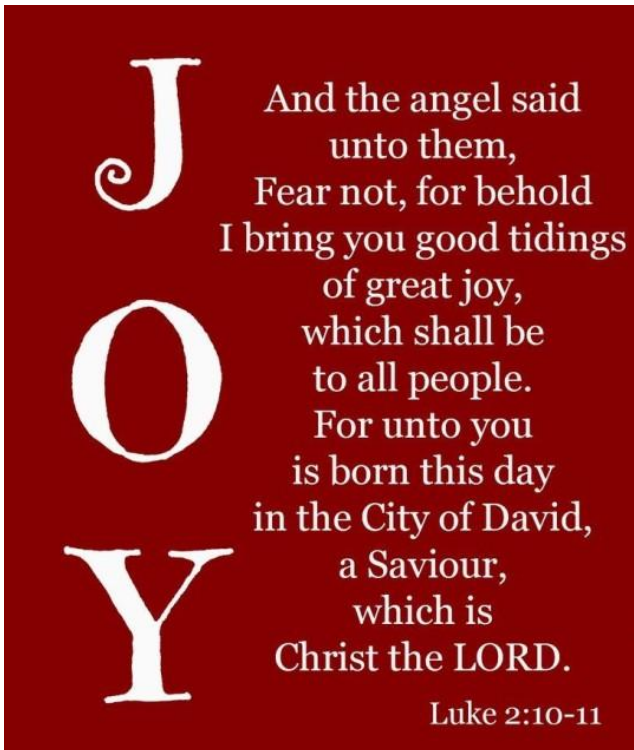
**Silent Prayer**

*(be seated)*

## Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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A red rectangular graphic containing the word "JOY" in large white serif letters. To the right of the letters is a white text block containing a biblical passage. At the bottom right of the red box is the reference "Luke 2:10-11" in white.

**J** And the angel said  
unto them,  
**O** Fear not, for behold  
I bring you good tidings  
of great joy,  
which shall be  
to all people.  
**Y** For unto you  
is born this day  
in the City of David,  
a Saviour,  
which is  
Christ the LORD.  
Luke 2:10-11

