



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 29, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.
You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

PRELUDE: "Good Christians All, Rejoice"

(Mary McDonald)

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

A: Amen.

L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us, we **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. A: Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

(ELW 288)



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice | with heart and soul and voice; |
| 2 | Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice | with heart and soul and voice; |
| 3 | Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice | with heart and soul and voice; |



give ye heed to	what we say:	Je - sus Christ	is born to - day;
now ye hear of	end - less bliss:	Je - sus Christ	was born for this!
now ye need not	fear the grave;	Je - sus Christ	was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

*GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was born to parents who had given up hope of having children; in gratitude, they placed him with Eli, the high priest, in the temple. His parent would indeed have other children, and Samuel would go on to become the first of the great prophets of Israel, anointing both Saul and David as king.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the Lord," and then they would return to their home.

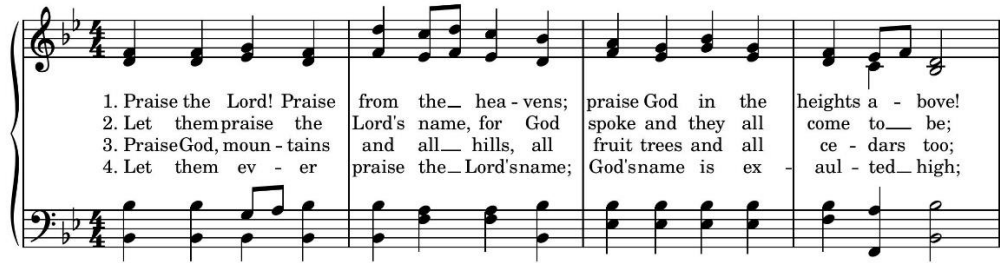
²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 148

(sung to the tune Beecher)

This psalm, like Psalm 98 (paraphrased as "Joy to the World"), calls on all creation – not simply Israel or even humanity – to praise its Creator.

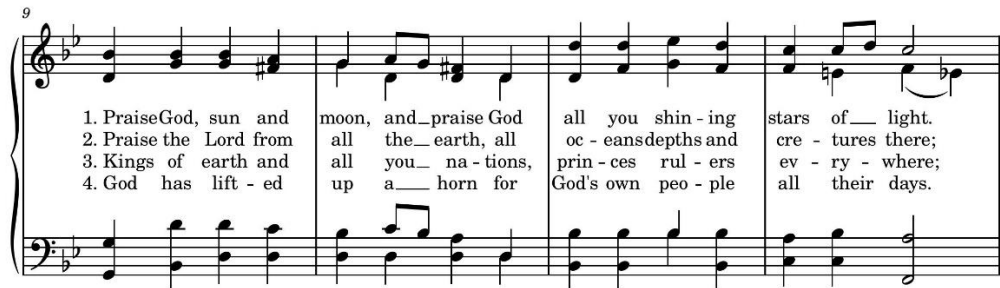


1. Praise the Lord! Praise from the hea - vens; praise God in the heights a - bove!
 2. Let them praise the Lord's name, for God spoke and they all come to be;
 3. Praise God, moun - tains and all hills, all fruit trees and all ce - dars too;
 4. Let them ev - er praise the Lord's name; God's name is ex - aul - ted high;



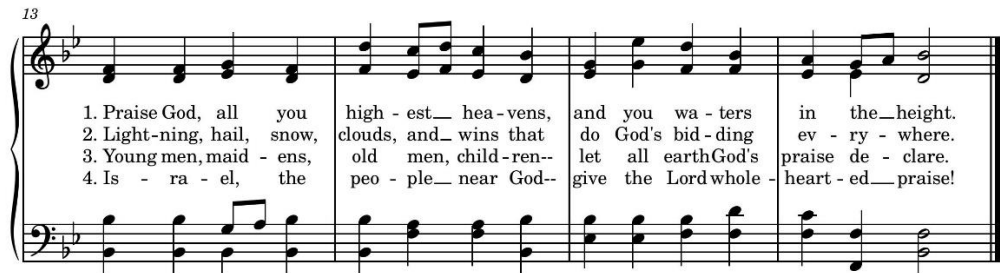
1. Praise God, all God's an - gels; praise God, all God's hosts who know God's love.
 2. God set them in place for - ev - er - last - ing God's de - cree.
 3. Creep - ing things and fly - ing birds, all cat - tle and wild crea - tures too.
 4. For God's splen - dor and God's glo - ry are a - bove the earth and sky.

9



1. Praise God, sun and moon, and praise God all you shin - ing stars of light.
 2. Praise the Lord from all the earth, all oc - eans depths and cre - tures there;
 3. Kings of earth and all you na - tions, prin - ces rul - ers ev - ry - where;
 4. God has lift - ed up a horn for God's own peo - ple all their days.

13



1. Praise God, all you high - est hea - vens, and you wa - ters in the height.
 2. Light - ning, hail, snow, clouds, and wins that do God's bid - ding ev - ry - where.
 3. Young men, maid - ens, old men, child - ren let all earth God's praise de - clare.
 4. Is - ra - el, the peo - ple near God - give the Lord whole - heart - ed praise!

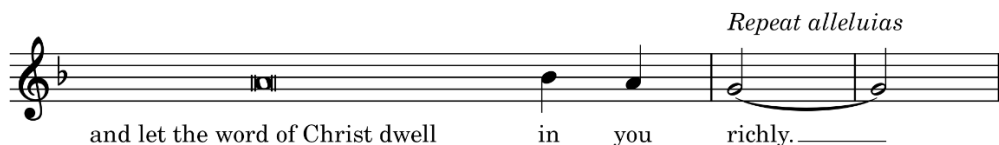
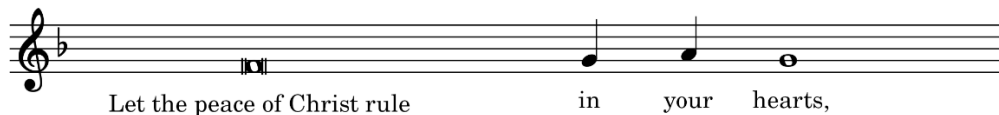
SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Like the second lessons for the past few Sundays, this reading from Colossians gives advice about how Christians are to live in the “mean time,” between the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ, and the final fulfillment of God’s promises.

¹² As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING – LUKE 2:41-52

This is the only scriptural story we have of Jesus between his early infancy and his baptism. Like many other stories in the early chapters of Luke, it includes Mary’s devoted remembering.

L: The holy gospel according to Luke. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus’s] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a

day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN SING

*NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, especially United Lutheran Seminary and the religion department of Susquehanna University and Bible study leaders that they may nurture us in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands (*places of war and conflict may be named*). God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill (*especially*). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: For the ministry of this place St. Paul in Pine Grove Mills we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks, especially Becky Nordberg, Mike Shoemaker, Bill Keller, and Jean Knepper. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

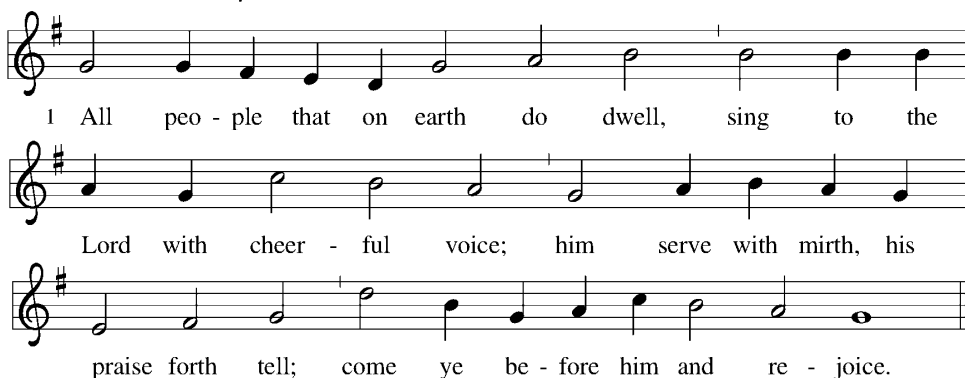
Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *"Still, Still, Still"* (

Paul Manz)

OFFERTORY – *"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*

(ELW 883)



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **A: Amen.**

***CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING “Let All Together Praise Our God” (ELW 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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***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

L: Holy God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

For your wondrous Word,

A: We thank you, O God.

L: In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all people, and to welcome us as members of your family. For your loving Word,

A: We adore you, O God.

L: Grant us now the gift of your Spirit, that held, nourished, and protected by your Word, we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world. For your powerful Word,

A: We praise you, O God.

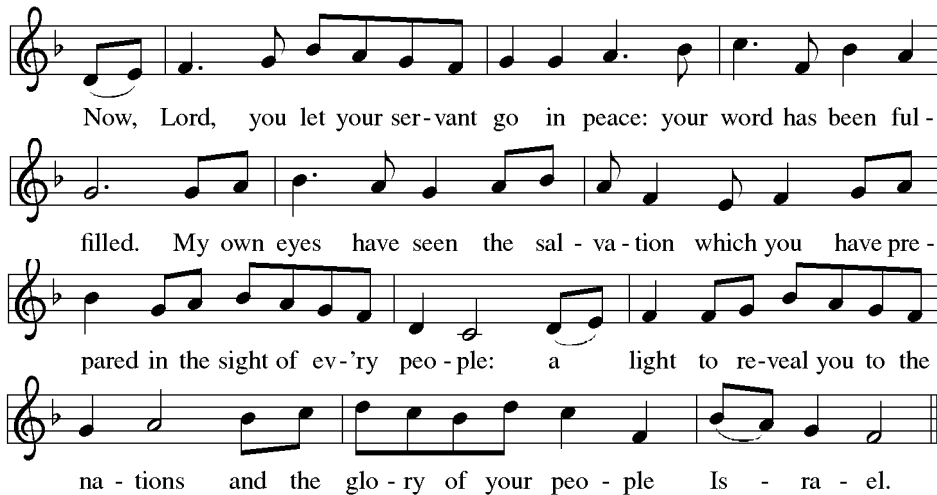
L: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us

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.

*POST THANKSGIVING CANTICLE – *Now Lord*



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN- "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

(ELW 290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

*DISMISSAL

L: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Postlude on "Gloria"

(Jason D. Payne)



SERVING TODAY

Worship LeaderMichelle McMullen
Organist..... Jim Rearick
Sacristan..... Delorse Homan
Reader.....Morgen Hummel

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,
and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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