



Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
9:30 p.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Henrik Sonntag, Pastor  
120 N. Easton Road  
Glenside, PA 19038

## **Pre-service Special Music**

Brass Quartet

Dawn Webster, trumpet

Adam Hershberger, trumpet

Alex Siniavski, trombone

Elisabeth Shertzer, tuba

## **GATHERING**

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### **Welcome**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,

when man and woman were formed

in God's own image;

Long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow

in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;

eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;

a thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year

from the founding of the city of Rome;

the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

in the sixth age of the world,

all earth being at peace,

Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,

willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,

was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,

God made flesh.

# Processional Carol

No. 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste Fideles*

## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

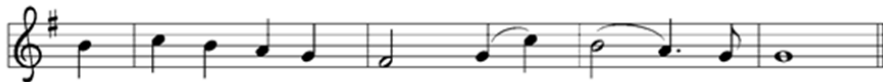


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

### *Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## 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.**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

No. 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD \_\_\_\_\_

### First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

Titus 2: 11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us  
to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live  
lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the  
blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and  
Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might  
redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who  
are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*



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



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

## Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <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 heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

### **Anthem**

*There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*

by Beth Kenreich

### **There is No Rose of Such Virtue**

(Anonymous, Trinity Carol Roll, circa 1415)

There is no rose of such virtue  
As the rose that bore Jesu.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

For in this rose is found  
Heaven and earth in a very small space.  
*\*Res miranda, alleluia.*

By that rose we may see  
He is God in persons three.  
Angels sang, the shepherds, too,  
*Gloria in excelsis deo.*

There is no rose of such virtue  
As the rose that bore Jesu.

*\*Res miranda* means "wonderful happening" (the Nativity)

Carol of the Day

No. 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol



**Apostles 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.

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace saying "Peace be with you."*

*Please be seated.*

**Offering**

*For Unto Us*

by. R. Kevin Boesinger  
Chancel Choir and Brass Quartet

# Offertory

## No. 692 We Are an Offering

*Offering*

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

# THE MEAL

## Great Thanksgiving

Page 107

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together. The lyrics are placed directly below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff features a slightly more varied rhythm with some dotted notes. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a final cadence.

## Sanctus

Page 108

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

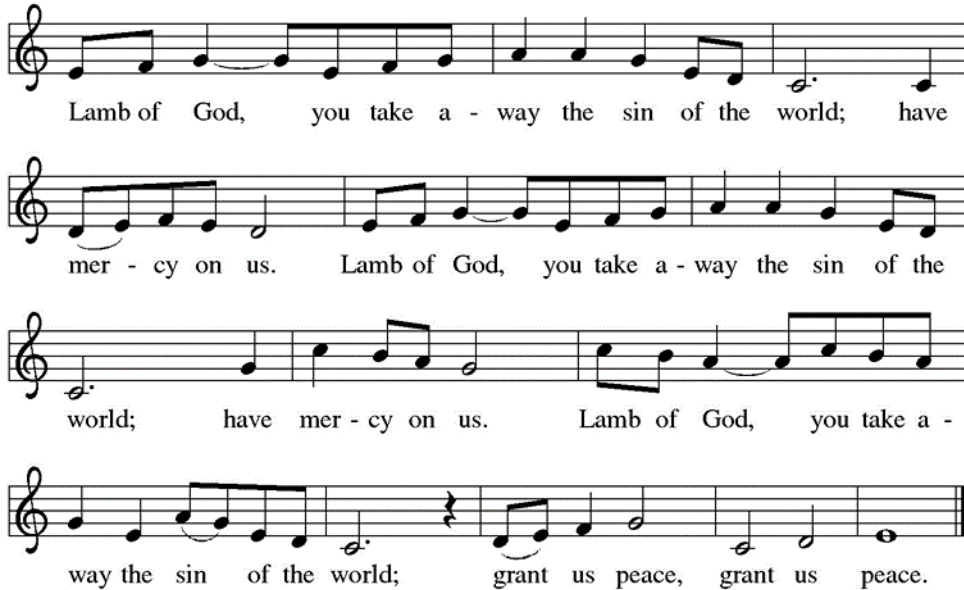
The musical score for 'Sanctus' is in G major (one sharp). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some longer note values (half notes) for emphasis. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. The score is divided into four staves, each containing a line of the hymn. The music is written in a clear, legible font, suitable for a church service.

## The Lord's Prayer

Page 112

## Lamb of God

Page 112



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## The Communion blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## Music during Distribution

*Brass Quartet selections.*

## Post-Communion Canticle

Page 113

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

**The Post Communion Prayer.** Concludes with **Amen**

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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.

## Blessing

## Candle Lighting

### Candle Carol

No. 281 Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!* *Stille Nacht*

Stanza 1 in German, then all three stanzas in English (For your convenience, music is on the back page)

*Please stand as you are able*

*(As the light from the Christ candle is passed from one to another in the pews, please exercise extreme caution.)*

## The Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Chorale Prelude on "Stille Nacht"* – John Leavitt

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.