

THE  
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2023  
8:00 p.m.



# PEACE on Earth



**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2023  
8:00 p.m.**

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!**

<i>The Holy Boy</i>	Organ	John Ireland
<i>As the Dark Awaits the Dawn</i>	Jubilation Choir	Text: Susan Palo Cherwien Music: Carl F. Schalk
<i>Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme</i>	Organ	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>A Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays</i>	Jubilation Choir	Text: Maria Brubacher Music: Jean Berger
<i>Es ist ein Ros entsprungen</i>	Organ	Johannes Brahms
<i>Before the Marvel of This Night</i>	Jubilation Choir	Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda Music: Carl F. Schalk
<i>Two Settings: In dulci jubilo</i>	Organ	Paul Manz
<i>Greensleeves</i>	Flute / Organ	Charles Callahan
<i>Ding Dong! Merrily on High</i>	Jubilation Choir	Charles Wood
<i>Three French Carols</i>	Trumpet / Organ	Arr. Lani Smith



Violin: Stephanie Poore  
Trumpet: Amelia Jansen  
Jubilation Choir: Janet Poore, Tamara Brown, Linda Berg,  
Melissa Hecht, Bob Juenger, Pastor Mark Shaltanis  
Choirmaster and Organist: Kantor Aaron Jansen

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 **Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.**
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 **O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.**

*INVOCATION*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

INTROIT

from Psalm 97

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;  
**let the many coastlands be glad!**  
His lightnings light up the world;  
**the earth sees and trembles.**  
For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
**you are exalted far above all gods.**  
Light is sown for the righteous,  
**and joy for the upright in heart.**  
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
**and give thanks to his holy name!**

PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the  
brightness of the true Light,  
**Grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to  
the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come All Ye Faithful*

LSB 379

*(As the cross is brought forward, the Congregation turns to face the front)*

**1 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***

**2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

***Refrain***

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain***

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dearly beloved of God, we come together on this night to hear of the great miracle whereby God became flesh and dwelt among us. Because He did this in order to free us from our sin, let us first consider our transgressions and confess these before God and one another.

*(Silent reflection and confession)*

God of our Salvation:

**we have sinned in our relationships with you and with one another. We have hurt others through our words and actions and have failed to respond to your life-giving Spirit. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus. Forgive us by grace, renew us in love and lead us with joy, that we may bear your peace to all the world. Amen.**

To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a minister of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE*

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

LSB 377

- 1 **On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
    News of great joy, news of great  
mirth,  
    News of our merciful King's birth.**
- 2 **Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
    When from our sin He set us free,  
    All for to gain our liberty?**
- 3 **When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
    Angels and men with joy may sing,  
    All for to see the newborn King.**
- 4 **All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
    "Glory to God and peace to men  
    Now and forevermore. Amen."**

OLD TESTAMENT READING (Be seated)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

JUBILATION CHOIR

*The First Noel*  
Setting: Dan Forrest

Noel...Noel.

The first Noel, the angels did say,

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel...Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star

Shining in the east beyond them far,

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night.

Noel...Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Noel...Noel!

Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,

That hath made heaven and earth of naught,

And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Noel...Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Noel...Noel.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only

Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL HYMN (Stand) O Little Town of Bethlehem*

LSB 361

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!**

**3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise to You, O Christ.**

*SERMON (Be seated)*

*HYMN (Stand) Let All Together Praise Our God*

LSB 389

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Let all together praise our God<br/>Before His glorious throne;<br/>Today He opens heav'n again<br/>To give us His own Son,<br/>To give us His own Son.</b></p>          | <p><b>3 Within an earthborn form He hides<br/>His all-creating light;<br/>To serve us all He humbly cloaks<br/>The splendor of His might,<br/>The splendor of His might.</b></p> |
| <p><b>2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,<br/>Is born an infant small,<br/>And in a manger, poor and lone,<br/>Lies in a humble stall,<br/>Lies in a humble stall.</b></p> | <p><b>4 He undertakes a great exchange,<br/>Puts on our human frame,<br/>And in return gives us His realm,<br/>His glory, and His name,<br/>His glory, and His name.</b></p>     |



5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's  
love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

*NICENE CREED*

*Hymnal, back cover*

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

### OFFERING

*Offerings support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. Fellowship Cards help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*The response to each petition will be:*

**P:** Let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** Lord, have mercy.



### COMMUNION LITURGY

*PREFACE (Stand)*

LSB 160

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

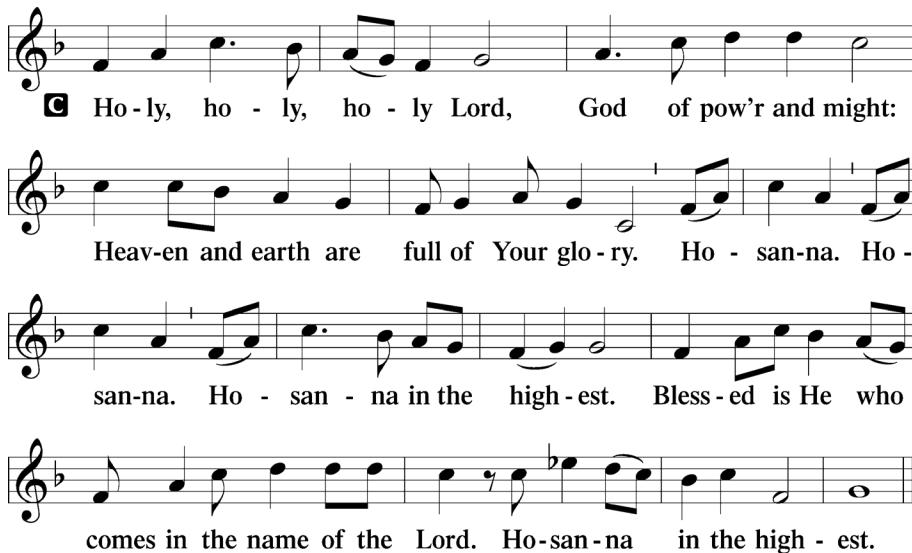
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*PROPER PREFACE*

It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:




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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**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.**

 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.

**DISTRIBUTION** (Be seated)

*Those wishing to commune at the foot of the steps should come forward first. Those wishing to commune at the altar rail should come forward after these, front rows first, from both sides of the aisle. After receiving, all should return to their seats. A common dismissal will be given at the end.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Sts. 1-4*

LSB 358

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> “From heav’n above to earth I come<br/>         To bear good news to ev’ry home;<br/>         Glad tidings of great joy I bring,<br/>         Whereof I now will say and sing:</p> | <p><b>3</b> “This is the Christ, our God Most High,<br/>         Who hears your sad and bitter cry;<br/>         He will Himself your Savior be<br/>         From all your sins to set you free.</p> |
| <p><b>2</b> “To you this night is born a child<br/>         Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;<br/>         This little child of lowly birth<br/>         Shall be the joy of all the earth.</p>     | <p><b>4</b> “He will on you the gifts bestow<br/>         Prepared by God for all below,<br/>         That in His kingdom, bright and fair,<br/>         You may with us His glory share.</p>        |

- 1    Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
    But there is room and welcome there for me,  
    But there is room and welcome there for me.
  
- 2    In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:  
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
    A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
    A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
  
- 3    How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
    A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
    A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
  
- 4    Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,  
    To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
    To die, to live, and not alone for me?

- 1    What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
    On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
    Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
    While shepherds watch are keeping?  
    This, this is Christ the king,  
    Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
    Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
    The babe, the son of Mary!
  
- 2    Why lies He in such mean estate  
    Where ox and ass are feeding?  
    Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
    The silent Word is pleading.  
    Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,

The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*BLESSING*

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Stand)*

O God, as you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*SHARING THE CANDLELIGHT*

*(The congregation's candles are lighted from the Christ Candle. In passing the flame, **DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE**. The candles remain burning until after the benediction.)*

- 1 Silent night, holy night!**  
 All is calm, all is bright  
 Round yon virgin mother and child.  
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!**  
 Shepherds quake at the sight;  
 Glories stream from heaven afar,  
 Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
 Christ, the Savior, is born!  
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 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.

## PRAYER

*BLESSING (Extinguish candles following the Blessing)*

- 1 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.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**  
 Let men their songs employ,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
 and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

Setting: Michael Burkhardt

## THOSE SERVING IN OUR MIDST:

Greeter: Lynn Jacquez

Reader: Lynn Jacquez

Communion Assistant: Jill Hecht

Acolytes: Augie Jansen, Andreas Buuck

Flute: Stephanie Poore

Trumpet: Amelia Jansen

## Acknowledgments

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384 Of the Father's Love Begotten Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text and tune: Public domain

377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing Text and tune: English Text and tune: Public domain

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

389 Let All Together Praise Our God Text (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561 Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005326 Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune: Public domain

369 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008  
Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929 Text: © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005326 Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005326

370 What Child Is This Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

363 Silent Night, Holy Night Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 Text and tune: Public domain

387 Joy to the World Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain