

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 28, 2025 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

PRELUDE

Maria Cusick - Organ

Please stand as the bell sounds.



HYMN IN PROCESSION

Hymn 82

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min-ions, bow be - fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have_____ been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.
 Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Blessed be God, born to us in Christ, the Light of the world.

Glory to God fore-ver and ev - er.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 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 brave de - light.
 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.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LESSON *seated*

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.



Worship God, | O Je-rusalem; *
 praise your Sov-e-| reign, O Zion;
 For the Holy One has strengthened the bars | of your gates *
 and has blessed your | children with-in you.
 Peace has been established | on your borders; *
 you are satisfied with the | finest wheat.
 You send out your command | to the earth, *
 and your word runs | very swiftly.
 You give | snow like wool *
 and scatter | hoarfrost like ashes
 You scatter your | hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand a-| gainst your cold?
 You send forth your | word and melt them; *
 you blow with your wind and the | waters flow.
 You declare your | word to Jacob, *
 your statutes and your | judgments to Israel.
 You have not done so to any | other nation; *
 to them you have not revealed your judgments. | Alleluia!

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

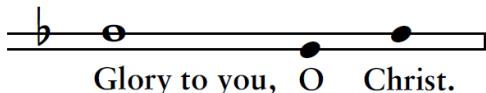
Thanks be to God.

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten- der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - - vior, when half spent was the night.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940

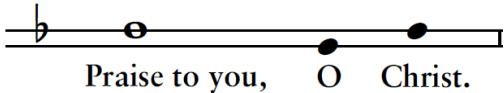
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.



A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed is not used on this day.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

standing

God of wonder, in this holy season you take our flesh and dwell among us. Open us to your good news, and let your light take root in our hearts.

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

Ruler of the nations, you cast down the powers that thrive on violence and fear. Break the cycles of war and hatred, and draw the peoples of the earth toward justice and peace.

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

Child of promise, you come among the poor, the overlooked, and the cast aside. Reveal your presence to us in those the world forgets or refuses to see.

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

Word made flesh, you bless our bodies by making them your dwelling place. Teach us to honor the bodies of others and our own with reverence, care, and compassion.

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

Vulnerable Savior, you share our suffering and know our need. Draw near to all who long for healing and wholeness, especially those we name before you now.

(Silence or spoken names)

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

Joy of heaven and hope of earth, you bridge the distance between life and death. Receive into your eternal joy all who have died, especially those we name now.

(Silence or spoken names)

God of wonder,
be born in our hearts, we pray.

The Celebrant concludes

God of wonder, you come to us not as we expect, but as we need. Renew our hearts by the mystery of your love made flesh, that Christ may be born in us again and again, and our lives bear witness to your light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

Join in supporting the ministry of St. Paul's on the Green

St. Paul's serves as a transformational and healing presence, both in our local community and in the lives of our members and friends. This vital ministry is made possible through your generous contributions.

As the world deeply needs communities of belonging and service, we invite you to make a meaningful year-end gift to St. Paul's or become a sustaining supporter.

To explore ways to give, visit this web address: stpaulsnorwalk.org/support or scan the QR code. Thank you for helping us continue this important work!



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to seek the earth it gave great light,
3 to to for a king was their in tent,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

- 6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English Carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841–1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880–1968)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

O Eternal Wisdom, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for in the Word made flesh you became one of us, a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to let the imprisoned go free. Therefore, we sing with the hosts of heaven, with the angels, and with all those who have loved you throughout the ages, and we praise your name, evermore singing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
 10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav-en and earth are
 19 full, full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high -
 28 est. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless-ed is he who comes -
 37 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 43 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; who, on the night when he was delivered over to death, gathered his friends, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, given for you." In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, for the remembrance of me."

Be among us now as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)

Come now, Holy Spirit, embrace us with your comforting power. Bless these gifts, and make us one body in Christ. As Mary's "Yes" brought forth your Son, may Christ be ever born in us for the life of the world. All this we pray in the risen life of the one who unites heaven and earth, your son, Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all power and glory are yours, now and for ever,

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

1 Our Fa - ther in hea-ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,

2 your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

3 And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

4 Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

5 For the king-dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

THE COMMUNION

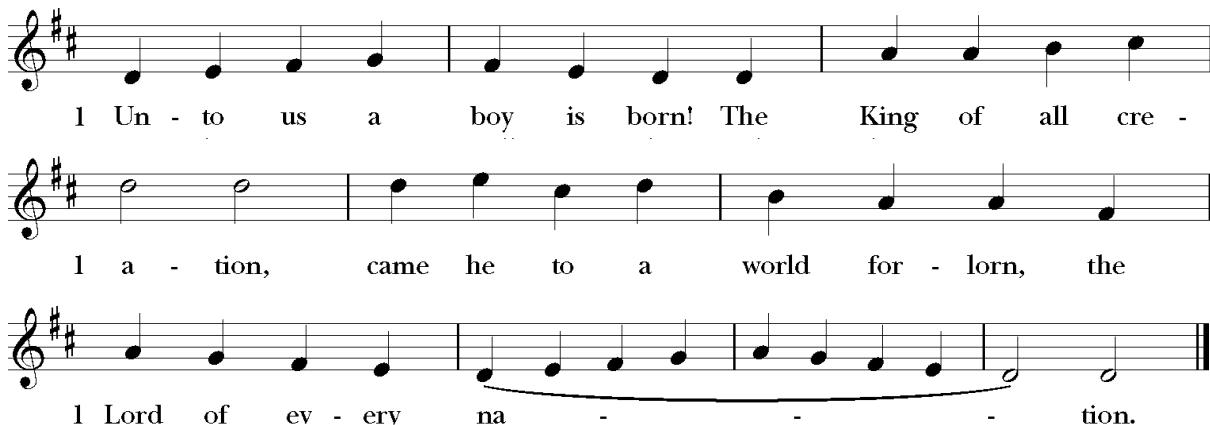
The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

Alleluia! The Word was made flesh and dwells among us.

This is the Bread of Heaven, broken for the life of the world. Alleluia!

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request, grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups.

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.



1 Unto us a boy is born! The King of all creation, came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.

Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879–1943)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the eternal Word,
who was in the beginning with God and is God,
fill your hearts with grace and truth. Amen.

May the true Light,
who shines in the darkness,
illumine your path with peace and hope. Amen.

And may the glory of God,
revealed in the Word made flesh,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and remain with you:
now and always. Amen.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915)

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go and tell the world that we have seen the glory of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest!

POSTLUDE

Maria Cusick – Organ

*The Altar Party leaves in procession during the Postlude.
Everyone is encouraged to regather in the Parish Hall (via the stairway behind the pulpit) for coffee and other refreshments.*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve Service with Burning Bowl 6pm

ST PAUL's ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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