

# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | JANUARY 4, 2026 - 9:00AM & 11:00AM

## PRELUDE

*Joshua Ehlebracht - Organ*

*Please stand as the bell sounds.*





## HYMN IN PROCESSION

### *Hymn 119*

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger rude and bare;  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
 3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

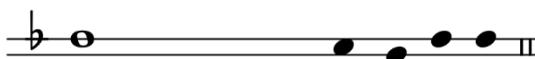
1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
 2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.  
 3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven-ly King.  
 4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of the one who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LESSON *seated*

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 84:1-8

*At 9:00am, the first verse is intoned by the Cantor, then by all on this tone.  
At 11:00am, the Psalm is sung by the Choir.*



How dear to me is your dwelling, O | God of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest  
where she may | lay her young, \*  
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,  
my Ruler | and my God.

Happy are they who | dwell in your house; \*  
they will always be | praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength | is in you; \*  
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a | place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.

They will climb from | height to height; \*  
the God of gods will be re-|vealed in Zion.

O God of hosts, | hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O | God of Jacob.

Behold our defen-|der, O God, \*  
and look upon the face of | your Anointed.

## THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN *standing*

Hymn 128



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:  
 in - cense



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.

*Refrain*

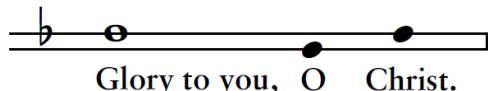
O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.  
 Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

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



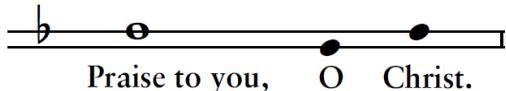
Glory to you, O Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## 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 arrive in our lives in ways we neither anticipate nor comprehend. May we so marvel at the mystery of your Love come among us, that our hearts are renewed and our lives are transformed as you are daily born within us. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, 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*

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*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*

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MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Choir at 11am*

**Of the Father's heart begotten**

Of the Father's heart begotten  
Ere the world from chaos rose  
He is Alpha from that fountain  
All that is and hath been flows  
He is Omega of all things  
Yet to come the mystic close  
Evermore and evermore

By His word was all created  
He commanded and 'twas done  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean  
Universe of three in one  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance  
All that breathes beneath the sun  
Evermore and evermore

He assumed this mortal body  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly  
Which the dreadful law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie  
Evermore and evermore

*David Willcocks (1919 – 2015)*

O how blest that wondrous birthday  
When the maid the curse retrieved  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation  
By the Holy Ghost conceived  
And the Babe, the world's redeemer  
In her loving arms received  
Evermore and evermore

This is He, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by  
This is He of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy  
Lo, He comes, the promised saviour  
Let the world His praises cry  
Evermore and evermore

Sing, ye heights of Heaven, His praises  
Angels and archangels sing  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful  
Let your joyous anthems ring  
Every tongue His name confessing  
Countless voices answering  
Evermore and evermore

1 Once in royal David's city stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from  
 4 For he is our life - long  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly

ci - ty stood a  
 hea - ven, who is  
 pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 see him, through his  
 sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mother laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 5 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)  
Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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  
 15 full, full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high -  
 19 est. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless-ed is he who comes  
 28 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 37 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 43

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

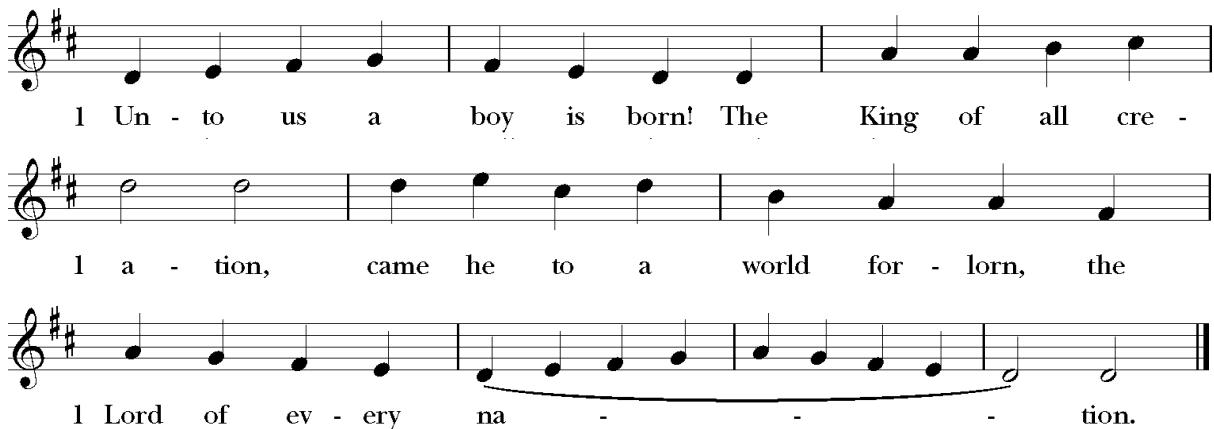
*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

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 Word made flesh dwell in you richly.  
May the light of Christ shine in your hearts and guide your steps.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and  
every-where; go tell it on the mountain, that  
Je-sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing trem-bled man-ger o'er when the si-lent flocks by the hum-ble Christ was si-lo! a-bove Christ shone a ho-ly light.

2 The shep-herds feared and Down in a low-ly night, earth born, be-rang and

3 Down in a low-ly night, earth born, be-rang and

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho-ly light.

out the an-ge-lus sal-va-tion that hailed our Sa-vior's birth.

God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*Repeat Refrain*

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901)  
 Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live the love made known in Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Joshua Ehlebracht - Organ*

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The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

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