

St. Paul Lutheran Church 4686 E. Walnut Street Westerville, OH 43081 614-882-7601 @splcwesterville www.splcwesterville.org

Philip Cordell, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE JOY TO THE WORLD

arr. T. Roed

Philip Cordell, piano

+ + + GATHERING + + +

Please stand as you are able.
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Church family, our faith is decorated with rituals and rhythms that help tie us to God. Confession is one of those rituals. Every week we gather in this space and tell the truth about our lives. And every week God hears our prayers and offers us grace. This holy dance of confession and mercy is one of the many rituals I could not live without. So let us embrace this holy tradition together.

Let us pray:

God of rhythms, we confess:

our faith would not be what it is without rituals.

Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.

We have to return to this space again and again

to hear old, familiar stories.

For if we stopped,

we know it would not take long before we lost our way.

Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us

ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.

With grateful and humble hearts we pray,

Amen.

Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace.

So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Thanks be to God! Amen!



DIALOGUE

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every week we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ + LESSONS & CAROLS + +

Please be seated.

God Promises A King

Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.



² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.



The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.



⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.



¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'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."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then 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."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On 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.



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

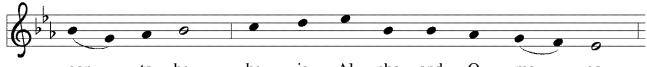
¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.



- Of the Fa - ther's love got the worlds be be ten ere Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless ed, when the vir - gin,
- This he whom seers in old time chant - ed is of with
- the heights of heav'n a -Let dore him; an - gel hosts, his
- thee, with God the Christ, to Fa ther. and. 0 Ho - lv



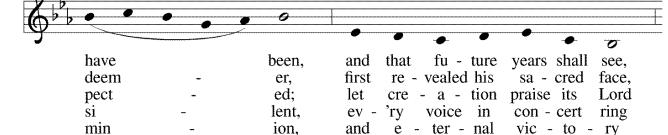
be, gan to full of grace, ac - cord, one prais es sing; Ghost, thee, to

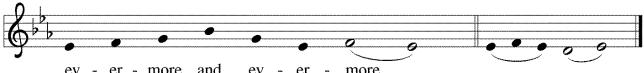
he is Al - pha and O me ga, the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv by ing, whom the voic - es the of proph ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him hymn and chant and high thanks - giv ing



he the source, the bore the Sav - ior prom-ised in their ex - tol and our and un - wea - ried

end ing he, of things that are, that the babe, the world's re of our race, and the faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex earth God and King; let tongue on no prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and





ev - er - more and ev more. er

and ev - er - more ev er more.

ev - er - more and ev er more.

ev - er - more and ev more. er ev - er - more and ev er more!

Α men. be

do -

THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith

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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh. Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated.
OFFERING

OFFERTORY REFLECTION ON "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING" by John Carter

Carole Williams, piano



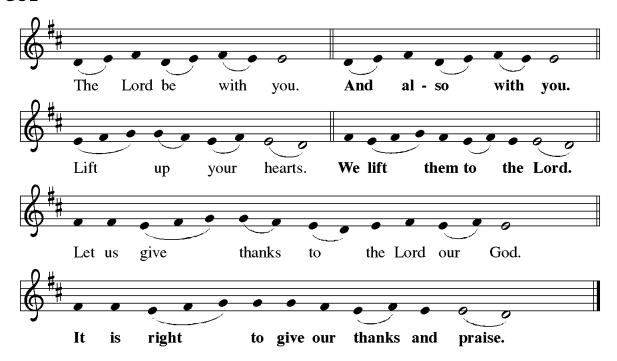
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

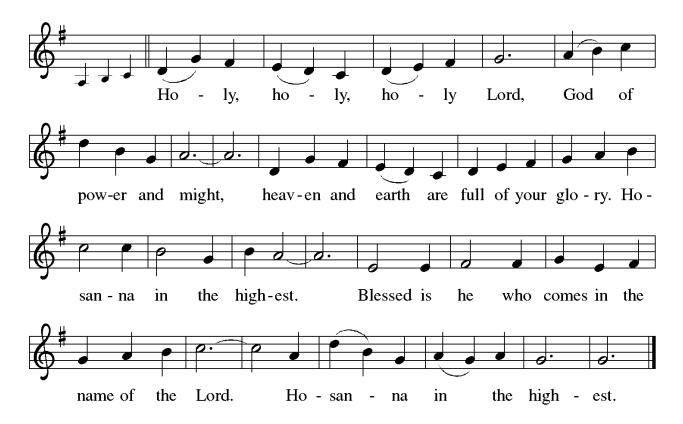


DIALOGUE



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let pray as Jesus 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;

You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;

You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

COMMUNION

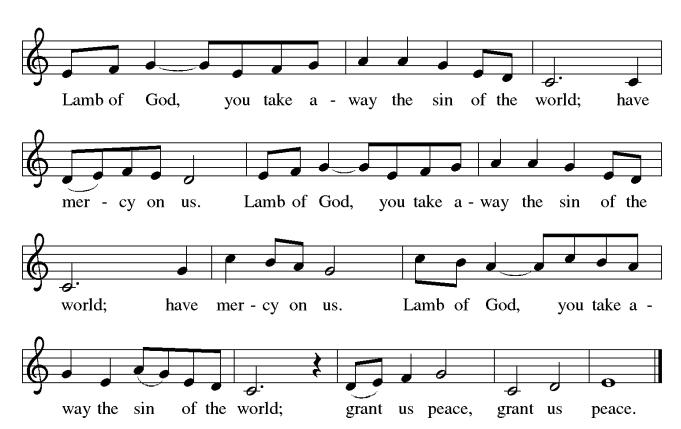
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

LAMB OF GOD



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH





Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

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

ELW 267

SONG AFTER COMMUNION JOY TO THE WORLD the Lord is come! Let earth Joy to the world, re -Joy the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their to No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the king; ceive let 'ry heart pre him her ev pare em - ploy, while fields and songs floods, rocks, hills, and the ground; fest comes make bless - ings he to his his glo ries righ teous tions prove of room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, peat the sound-ing found, flow as the curse is far as the curse is won-ders of his of ness and love, and won-ders his and heav'n and na-ture sing, and sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing. joy, re peat, re peat the sound - ing joÿ. found, found. far as, far as the curse is love, won ders, of love. and won ders his

heav'n and na-ture

sing,

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.



DISMISSAL

Christ is born. Let us go, Serve the Lord, Share, and "Experience God's love!"

POSTLUDE HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING **VARIATIONS NOS. 1, 2, AND 5**

arr. Janet Linker

(Sanctuary)

Philip Cordell, organ

O HOW JOYFULLY! with JOY TO THE WORLD (Livestream)

Traditional

Philip Cordell, piano

by Lowell Mason and G. F. Handel

The altar flowers are given today by Fred Wilke in memory of his wife, Theresia.

Please note:

The SPLC office is closed until January 5, 2026.

Worship on January 4, 2026, resumes at 9 AM and 10:30 AM

PERMISSIONS

Scripture passages are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All Rights reserved worldwide.

Worship Texts are portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and sundayandseasons.com; © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress. Permission is granted to reproduce this material for non-sale, local use, provided that this copyright notice is included.

Prelude in G Major, by J.S. Bach, performed by Philip Cordell. Used with permission. Joy to the World, arr. T. Roed, performed by Philip Cordell. Used with permission. O Come, All Ye Faithful, Text and Music: Public Domain. What Child is This, Text and Music: Public Domain. O Little Town of Bethlehem, Text and Music: Public Domain. Away in a Manger, Text and Music: Public Domain. Angels, from the Realms of Glory, Text and Music: Public Domain. The First Noel, Text and Music: Public Domain. Of the Father's Love Begotten, Text and Tune: Public Domain. Reflection on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming", by John Carter, performed by Carole Williams, Used with permission. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Text and Music: Public Domain. Angels We Have Heard on High, Text and Music: Public Domain. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Text and Music: Public Domain. Joy to the World, Text and Music: Public Domain. Go Tell it on the Mountain, Text and Music: Public Domain. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Variations Nos. 1, 2 and 5, arr. Janet Linker, performed by Philip Cordell. Used with permission. O How Joyfully! With Joy to the World, Traditional, by Lowell Mason and G.F. Handel, performed by Philip Cordell. Used with permission.

As we cultivate welcoming communities of faith with our neighbors and world, we strive for a world where everyone "Experiences God's Love".

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. We welcome you to join us at the table of the Lord. Our Communion Bread is gluten, peanut, tree nut, soy, and dairy-free. White grape juice is always available in the center of the tray. All are welcome.

NURSERY

The nursery is located at the top of the ramp of the main entrance to the church. Currently, the nursery is not staffed, however, it is available for you to use with your child. Also, for our young worshippers, please find **Worship Wonder Bags** on the small coat rack in the rear of the sanctuary, untie, and enjoy. After worship, please put the **UNTIED bag back** on the rack to be replenished and cleaned.

Online giving to St. Paul is available: Using your mobile device, scan below or Text **SPLCGIVE** to **73256**.

CONTACTS

Pastor Jonathan Bull, 614-886-5364, jon.bull@splcwesterville.org

Pastor Gary Grieger, 989-350-8411, gary.grieger@splcwesterville.org

<u>Karla Kruse, 614-882-7601,</u> karla.kruse@splcwesterville.org

Zach Ruppel, 614-882-7601, zach.ruppel@splcwesterville/org

Amy Drake, 614-882-7601, amy.drake@splcwesterville.org

Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@splcwesterville.org

MUSIC STAFF

Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries
Judy McLeod, Handbell Director
Zach Ruppel, Director of Contemporary Music
Philip Cordell, Organist
Susan Treer, Contemporary Keyboardist



Church Office: M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Closed for lunch: 12 PM- 1 PM

Please contact us if you have any questions. Check out the web site for more information. St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.