

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.denverlutheran.com

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Member Congregation:
Church of the Lutheran Confession
www.clclutheran.org



4th Sunday in Advent – December 22, 2024

A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests!

The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are happy that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservation to the entire truth of God's Word in the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Holy Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again!

Today's Order of Worship is "Divine Worship Setting 1," as printed in the liturgy pamphlet. This service is based on pages 12-21 in the tan hymnal (*Worship Supplement 2000*). Please leave your copy in the pew after the service concludes or drop it into the designated box in the entry so that it may be used in future services. Thank you.



Serving Us Today
Organist Jeana Kettner
Ushers Bob Rankin, Wayne Ruegge

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 20 (pew bible, page 489)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 352, 934, 109*, 333 (*printed below on page 8)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Philippians 4:1-9, Luke 1:39-56
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: Psalm 85

Sermon



Text – Luke 2:8-11

**Theme – *Jesus Was Born To Get Us
Out of Trouble***

1. To deliver us from our sin-troubled life in the here and now.
2. To save us for the trouble-free life of the world to come.

*The Scripture Lessons, Psalm of the Day, and Sermon
Text are printed on the following pages.*

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Philippians 4:1-9

Be United, Joyful, and in Prayer / Meditate on These Things

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. 2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 85

A Prayer that the Lord Will Restore Favor to the Land

P LORD, You have been favorable to Your land:
C **You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**
P You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people:
C **You have covered all their sin.**
P Show us Your mercy, LORD:
C **And grant us Your salvation.**
P I will hear what God the LORD will speak:
C **For He will speak peace to His people and to His saints.**
P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him:
C **That glory may dwell in our land.**
P Mercy and truth have met together:
C **Righteousness and peace have kissed.**

Second Lesson – Luke 1:39-56

Mary Visits Elizabeth / Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” 46 And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.” 56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Sermon Text – Luke 2:8-11

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible*, New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., © 1982). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/22)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Practice
Tue	6:30 am	Children's Christmas Eve Service
Wed	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sun (12/29)	9:30 am	Worship Service

New Year's Eve Communion Service: Tuesday, December 31, 7:00 pm

Church Undecorating: Sunday, January 5

Upcoming Meetings in January:

- ▶ Mary/Martha Ladies: Sunday, January 12, 10:45 am
- ▶ Church Council: Sunday, January 19, 8:30 am
- ▶ Annual Voters: Sunday, January 26, 10:45 am

We Ask the Lord for His Continuing Gracious Care for our fellow members: Willa Mae Janssen, Joyce Maulis, Carly Mess, and Pat Newton. Willa continues her recuperation at home from a respiratory ailment. Joyce was temporally hospitalized after suffering injuries in a fall at home. She is now undergoing therapy at Life Care Center of Evergreen. Carly underwent abdominal surgery last Thursday and is recovering at home. Pat is also recuperating from a respiratory ailment. We ask the Good Shepherd to tenderly care for the sheep of His flock and bless with them with His healing and strength.

*(Pray) always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
being watchful to this end with all perseverance and
supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18.*

Synod News & Notes

- ◆ Hard copies of the CLC November Financial Report are available by the tract rack. Feel free to pick up a copy. It's good to stay informed on the financial needs of our wider church family and God's goodness in provisioning our Gospel-outreach efforts in His Name.
- ◆ CLC Mission Helper Trip: The application deadline for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 13, 2025. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply soon. Find more info at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 23-28

Mon Luke 1:57-66 Neighbors and relatives rejoice when God's promise is fulfilled. Elizabeth and Zechariah are united in using the name which Gabriel had given, and Zechariah's tongue is loosed to praise God.

Tues Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah becomes a mouthpiece for the Holy Spirit, extolling God's goodness in bringing the promised salvation to pass. This shows the importance of this child, the fore-runner of the Savior.

Wed Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Day In the sending of His own Son, God exalts those of low degree. He gives the child to lowly parents in a lowly place. He announces it to unnamed shepherds. But all of this fills our songs with joy today.

Thurs John 1:1-14 The Word by whom all things were made became flesh. He showed us His glory as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth, and it is He who brings us life!

Fri Isaiah 9:2-7 The difference between darkness and a brilliant light, that is the difference that He makes, whose birth we celebrate these days. He comes to raise the human race from death to life!

Sat Isaiah 11:1-5 From the stump of a tree comes a little shoot, a Branch. But He will be great! He will be righteous! The Spirit of the Lord, of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord will rest on Him. And we will be blessed!

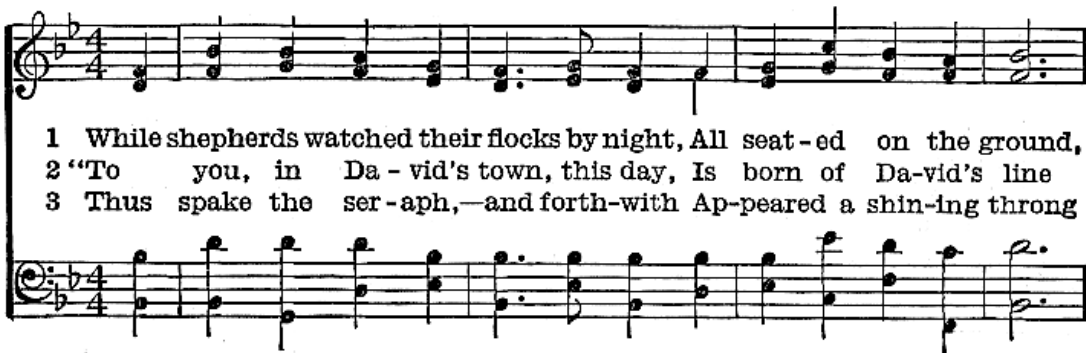
Hymn after the Sermon

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night 109

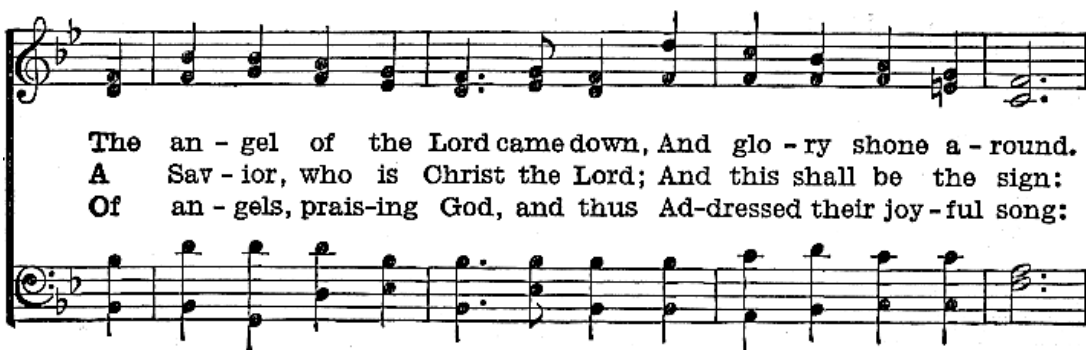
Luke 2: 11
Nahum Tate, 1700

C. M. D.

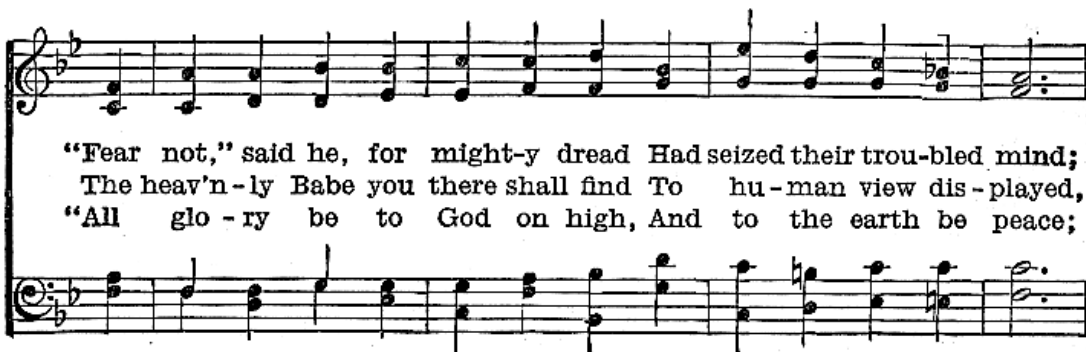
Bethlehem
Gottfried W. Fink, 1842



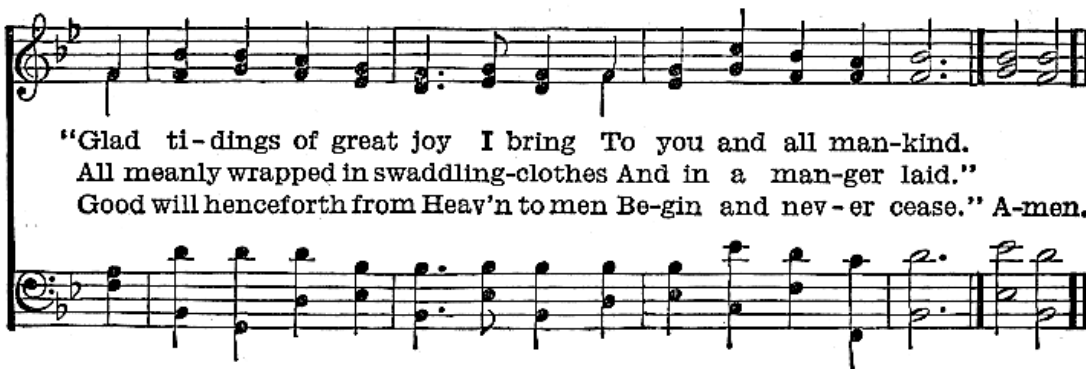
1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seat-ed on the ground,
2 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day, Is born of Da-vid's line
3 Thus spake the ser-aph,—and forth-with Ap-peared a shin-ing throng



The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round.
A Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign:
Of an-gels, prais-ing God, and thus Ad-dressed their joy-ful song:



"Fear not," said he, for might-y dread Had seized their trou-bled mind;
The heav'n-ly Babe you there shall find To hu-man view dis-played,
"All glo-ry be to God on high, And to the earth be peace;



"Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring To you and all man-kind.
All meanly wrapped in swaddling-clothes And in a man-ger laid."
Good will henceforth from Heav'n to men Be-gin and nev-er cease." A-men.