

PEAK SPRINGHILL PARISH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.peakspringhill.com

God's Work  *Our Hands*

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December 24, 2025

The Nativity of Our Lord ~ Christmas Eve



WELCOME

A heartfelt welcome is offered to all who worship with us: members and visitors. If you are visiting today and do not have a home church in this area we invite you to consider joining our fellowship. Please take a minute to sign our guest book.

In case of any emergency during the Worship service, the Organist will call 911.

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this evening. All Christians are invited to commune with us at the Lord's Table to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. If you are unable to take both the bread and the wine, please know that whichever you choose to receive brings with it the full promise that your sins are forgiven, you are granted new life in this world that continues into the next and that you receive the promise of salvation.

Please contact Pastor Tom Cassem at (843) 469-3630 (phone or text) or email tomcassem@gmail.com if you or another member of the parish is sick, moves into a rehab, assisted living or nursing care, is hospitalized, or having surgery or if you need Pastoral assistance.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor: <i>Rev. Thomas Cassem</i>	Organist: <i>Linda Amick</i>
Acolyte: <i>Aidan Ard</i>	Lector/Prayer Leader: <i>Jerry Derrick</i>
Altar Guild: <i>Betty Jo Amick</i>	Communion Asst.: <i>Betty Jo Amick</i>
Ushers: <i>Albert Amick</i> <i>Sam Barrett</i> <i>Jerry Derrick</i>	Counters: <i>Dan Caudle</i> <i>Hazel Caudle</i>

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INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands.

PROCLAMATION

This night....

- * unknown ages for the time when God created the heavens and earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;
- * several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
- * twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
- * thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt;
- * eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
- * one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,

in

- * the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;
- * the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
- * the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
- * the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

the whole world being at peace,

Jesus Christ,

The eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months have passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

This night is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

GATHERING CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

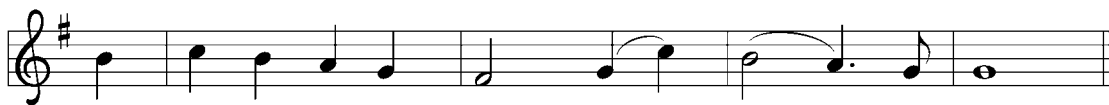


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

NATIVITY DIALOGUE

P: Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name Lord.

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

C: **a voice that speaks for peace.**

P: Peace for all people and for his friends

C: **and those who turn to him in their hearts.**

P: His help is near for those who fear him,

C: **and his glory will live in our land.**

P: Blessed is he who comes as a king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

THE NATIVITY PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: **Almighty God,
you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the
world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the
old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN

Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)



- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
- 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSÖSÖ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

The congregation is seated.

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY

Isaiah 40: 1-5,11

The Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah's Coming

A reading from the 40th chapter of Isaiah:

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
- ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice cries out:
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms
 and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (ELW 256)



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Luke 2: 1-7*The Nativity of Our Lord*

A reading from the Holy Gospel of St. Luke, the 2nd chapter:

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Our Reading from St. Luke continues:

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!”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



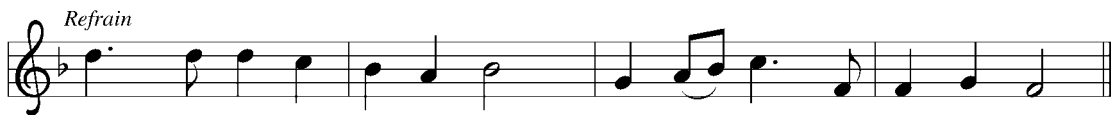
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Our Reading from St. Luke continues:

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. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL***It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)***

- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to come to the sanctuary steps for a special "Children's Message".

HOMILY

REV. THOMAS A. CASSEM

The congregation stands.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The congregation sits or kneels as able.

L: Let us pray: O Heavenly Father, on this blessed night when you became a human being to redeem us, we marvel at your love. Isaiah is singing and his joy is overwhelming. The great light shines on all who have walked in darkness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You come to us as a child this night. You are the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. You are our king! We thank you for your salvation, for your glory, and for your marvelous work that makes the heavens glad and the earth rejoice. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We have heard the angel's counsel to Mary and Joseph and to the shepherds in the field, "Do not be afraid." Help us to not be afraid as strange and wondrous gifts of your love come also to us. Be with all people who are afraid this night and give them your comfort and your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You break all oppressor's rods, even our own yokes to sin. Bring the leaders of all nations of our world to follow your lead and rule their people with justice and love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, though there was no room for you in the inn, you were born anyway. Come to the manglers of our individual lives, the rudest places of our need, and be born in us again, that we might be born again in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O God of all Grace, hear the prayers we lift up to you, silent or spoken (*A brief silence for Petitions*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As we joyfully kneel at the manger and rejoice with the shepherds, we ask that throughout the year you continue to instill in us the same devotion we feel tonight. Keep us strong in our dedication to our newborn King. We ask this in his name.

C: Amen

The congregation stands.

SHARING OUR LORD'S PEACE

The minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is seated.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL OFFERING

Before the Marvel of this Night

Choir

The congregation stands.

THE GIFT OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

HOLY COMMUNION

All Christians are invited to commune at the Lord's Table to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The Minister leads us in the Words of Institution (Not Printed).
Please direct your attention to the Altar.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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 THE TABLE

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation is seated; please come forward to receive the bread and wine as directed by the Ushers.

CAROL DURING COMMUNION

Away in a Manger (ELW 278)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

CAROL DURING COMMUNION

I Wonder As I Wander (WOV 642)

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER
 12 11 11 12

After all have communed, the congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World (ELW 267)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the Highest! Go in joy!

C: Thanks be to God.