



CHRISTMAS
EVE

December 24, 2025
8 pm

Prelude

Christmas Piano Duet

Anna Nichols/Penny Hall

Welcome

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

The Paul Family

Pastor: Children of God, what are we waiting for?

***People:* We wait for the Christ child, for Jesus who is the hope of salvation, the Prince of Peace, the joy of heaven, love incarnate, and the light of life that casts out sin.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Candle Lighter: Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

***People:* May our voices join the everlasting chorus as we welcome the newborn king, Christ, the Lord.**

Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #76, v. 1, 3, 4

Reading *The Lord Is Coming!* Psalm 96

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #61, v. 1, 4, 7

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, gentle Lord, on this holy night we pray that your power and peace would cast out our sin, that there may be room for you to be born in our hearts. We confess we have crowded you out of our lives with false priorities and self-serving goals.

We have been selfish and called it "prudence." We have been arrogant and called it "self-esteem." We have been cruel and called it "necessary." Forgive us, Lord. We have hidden our sins behind clichés and habits for so long we are hardly aware of right and wrong. Forgive us, Lord.

Send your Spirit to awaken our consciences and purify our minds, that this Christmas we may welcome you aright. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Special Music "How Great Our Joy" German Carol
Chancel Choir

Reading	<i>A Child Has Been Born to Us</i>	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Carol	“Once in Royal David’s City”	#87, v. 1 - 4
Reading	<i>The Peaceful Kingdom</i>	Isaiah 11:1-9
Carol	“Still, Still, Still”	see insert/slides
Reading	<i>The Angel Visits Mary</i>	Luke 1:26-35, 38
Carol	“God Reigns, Earth Rejoices”	#91
Reading	<i>The Birth of Jesus</i>	Luke 2:1-20
Carol	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	#80
Christmas Meditation		Pastor Matt
Special Music	“O Holy Night” Chancel Choir; cello obligato, Evan Cobb	Adams
Offering	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Bethlehem, Palestine

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication #83

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God, in the highest heaven!

Peace be on earth, peace be on earth, alleluia, alleluia!

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick, and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this

Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Invitation

Communion - The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Hymn

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

#73

Communion Prayer - Lord’s Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Special Music

“Make Room”

Cobb, Emery, Rivers
Evan Cobb, cello

Candle Lighting

Reading

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-5, 14

Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

#85

Benediction

Postlude

“Silent Night”

arr. Young