

She will bear a SON, and you are to name him Jesus

MATTHEW 1:21

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Restrooms are available off the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Offerings Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

Holy Communion 10:30 AM

Musical setting 1 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE Christ our God to Earth Descendeth arr. Joe Utterback

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Stand turning towards the font.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

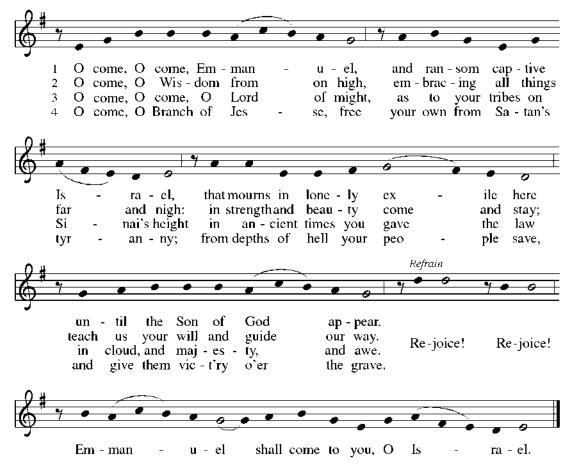
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on

us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Fon, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257) stanzas 1-4 Sit



NATIVITY PLAY On Christmas Day in the Morning A Winter Night Traditional Carol John Erickson

Applause is welcome following the Children's Program.

Stand

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16 (back cover)

PSALMODY

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

(spoken responsively by full-verse)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;*

shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.

² In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,* stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

⁴ O Lord | God of hosts,*

how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;*

you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶ You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,* and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of | your right hand,* the son of man you have made so strong | for yourself.

¹⁷ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;*

give us life, that we may call up- on your name. 18 Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved. SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7 (back cover)

VERSE



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:18-25 (back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit HOMILY

Pastor Stan Reep

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY Peace Came to Earth (ELW 285)



NICENE CREED

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Raise up leaders in every nation who work for freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (especially June Heistand, Hugh Miller, Bill Diaczun, Kathy Ruth, Wayne Umland, Jim Yanick, Maria Laczkoskie, Mary Buler, Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Jim Young, Gary Bilbie, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Shine perpetual light upon the faithful departed who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us with them into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The people share signs of peace.

Sit

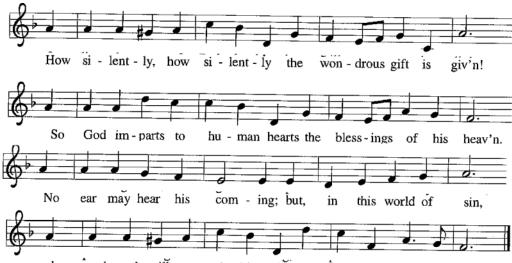
CHANCEL CHOIR

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Mark Schweizer

Stand

OFFERTORY O Little Town of Bethlehem stanza 3 (ELW 279)



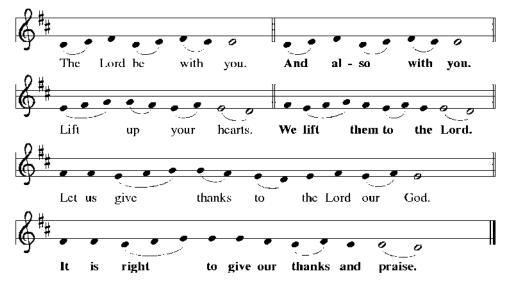
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

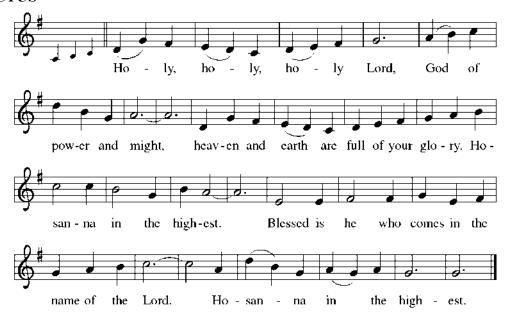
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

THE 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.

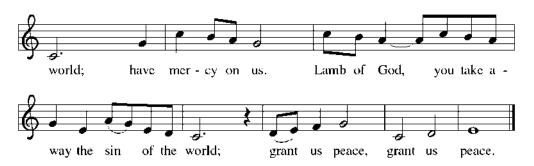
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

FRACTION A brief silence is kept.

AGNUS DEI





Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion

PIANO DUET

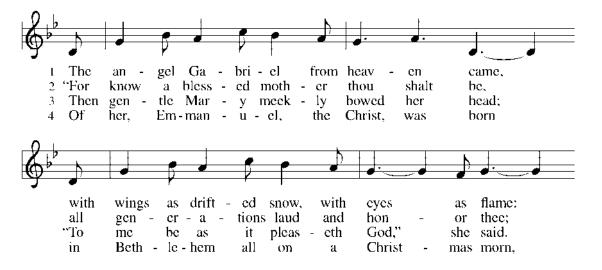
Away in a Manger James R. Murray, arr. by Jerry Ray Harrison & James Palmer

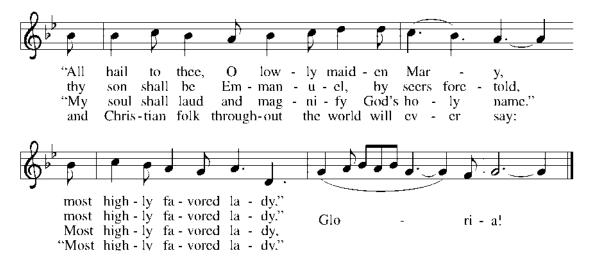
COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
- 6. Consume the communion host.
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 10.Return to your pew using the side aisle.

Hymn during Distribution The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (ELW 265)





Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome Him into our hearts as we receive your Holy Sacrament; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. Amen

THE RINGING IN OF CHRISTMAS

HYMN

Joy to the World (ELW 267) (next page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

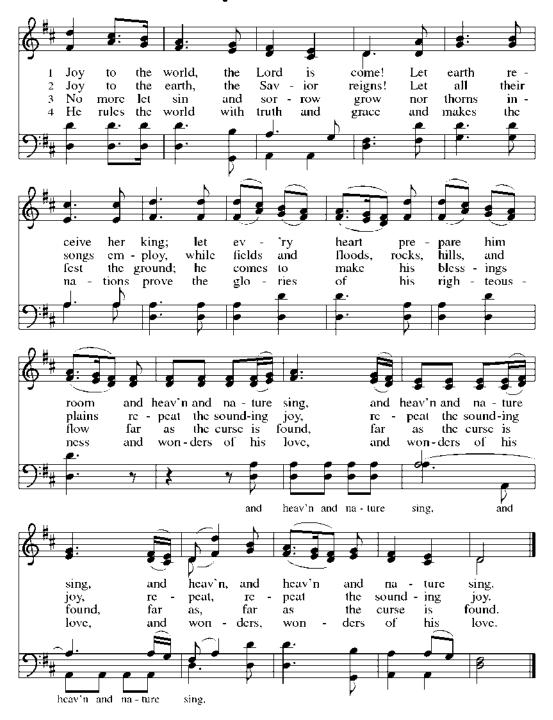
POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

Paul Fey

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Joy to the World



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Melvin E. Lanning by daughter, Mrs. Richard Ault & Family



Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE		Assisting Minister	Crucifer		Commun- ion Assist.	Greeters		Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up	
12/18 Advent 4		Harold Sargeant		Ken Hinkle		Ken Hinkle, Jennifer Ports	Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Kathleen Lemke, Pat Scarborough	
12/18 Advent 4	10:30 AM	Tonya Cave	,	Rebekah Hake		Bingham		Pat Rudicille, Jerry Briggs	

The Long-term Recovery Committee of the York County VOAD is seeking volunteers to make calls to local homeowners who may still have unmet needs following Hurricane Ida. On Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th, a phone-a-thon will take place at the York County Office of Emergency Management. All volunteers will be provided with a script to use to reach out to our neighbors who may still be in need. If you are able to spend an hour or two (longer is okay, too) doing this important outreach, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard, Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Network Coordinator at (717) 471-1067 or gbeard@luthercare.org. Pastor Beard and other VOAD leaders will be present both days to assist with answering any questions or concerns. You may remember that we collected funds in Lent for this important work. Please call Pastor Snyder (717) 880-03502 if you have questions.

Food Pantry—Winter Items needed: Rice, beans, Tomato sauce, pasta, mashed potato mix, gravy and stuffing mix for the holidays. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

This Week at St. Paul's

Limited Church Office hours this week. Please call ahead.

Sunday, December 18 Advent 4

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Nativity Play

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday, December 20

9:30 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Decorate the Church

The Church office will be closed December 26 thru January 3. Please contact Pastor Reep directly for any Pastoral care. Wednesday, December 21

10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

7:00 PM Candlelight Vespers—Piano, Flute,

Handbells

Thursday, December 22

6:30 PM Handbells—Nave 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Nave

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM & 7:00 PM Services

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

News and Updates December 18, 2022

Christmas Decorating Tuesday, December 20 at 6:00 PM The Worship and Arts Committee invites anyone able and willing to help with the church decorating this year on Tuesday December 20th at 6:00 PM. We will work with fresh evergreens and fruit so that our decorations are at their peak for our Christmas services at the end of the week. If you are able to help decorate please notify the church office. Thank you.

3rd - 6th Grades Sunday School Class's Mission Project—The class looks forward to selecting farm animals they can purchase with your contributions of quarters for the "quarter tube" in Good Shepherd Hall or through your Advent offerings. In the past, their purchases have included animals as small as chicks to as large as cows to support family farmers globally.

Advent Vespers—Every Wednesday we gather at 7:00 PM for the beautiful service of Evening Prayer. We are host for collaborative services with Grace York, St. Peter's N. York, and Christ Manchester. The Liturgy is live-streamed.

2023 Church Offering Envelopes are ready for you to pick up in the Good Shepherd Room.

2023 Calendars are available for a requested donation of \$20.00. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! All proceeds go towards the construction of a canopy for the Food Pantry.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Nativity Play

Thank you to Miss Kelly and Mrs. Jones for guiding the children in this special Christmas Presentation.



Ephraim Lipp *
Samantha Jacobs
Bennett Miller
Gwendolyn Bastian



Torrance Harrington * Ezra Erickson Vera Lipp Henry Bastian



Cecilia Lauer *
Caroline McComas
Frederick Jones
Monte Lipp



Henry Garber * Sophia Lehr Charlotte Bingham



Isabella Lehr *
Teddy Waddail
Melanie Patterson



Gus Lipp *
Jordyn Lehr
Iris Erickson



Gwen Lehr *
Naomi Patterson
Owen Harrington

Narrator James Palmer

Joseph Harrison Palmer

Mary Paula Herdson **Set and Costume assistants** Sophie Zart Addison Harrington

Original Script Stan Reep

* Children with speaking parts

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.