

*The Word became flesh
and lived among us*

JOHN 1:14

WELCOME

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.

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

THE NURSERY, which is accessed from the double doors, front right, is available for any family needing a space away. You may view the service via live-stream.

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.

CHOIRS AT ST. PAUL’S

Enquiries are welcome at any time. If you are interested in singing with a choir or ringing handbells with an ensemble please contact a music staff member; Mr. Victor Fields (Chancel Choir), Mrs. Leah McComas (Handbells), or Mrs. Julianna Jones (Children’s Choirs) at 717-843-8155.

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry operates each Tuesday morning from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The weekly distribution is staffed with more than 40 volunteers. If you are in need of food or would like to provide assistance with one of the many aspects of this ministry simply contact the church office for further details. Additionally we work in cooperation with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York to grow fresh produce in the summer months at a community garden located one block south on George Street. Gardeners are joyfully welcomed.

ST. PAUL’S PRESCHOOL

Early childhood education is a major part of child development. St. Paul’s preschool is in its 58th year of continuous operation. Classes are available for children ages 2, 3 & 4. For additional information please contact the Director of Preschool, Mrs. Deborah Becker 717-854-1996.
www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AT ST. PAUL’S

St. Paul’s hosts AA Fellowship groups on Sunday evening 6:30 p.m.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

The Nativity of Our Lord

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

ELW Setting 1

PRELUDE Chorale Partita on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Paul Manz

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN *From Heaven Above (ELW 268)*

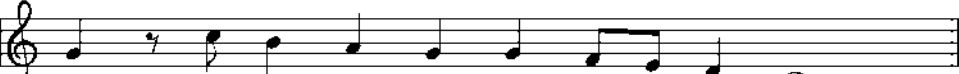


1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 “This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your
Insert additional stanzas as desired.
12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 “Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n, who un - to



news to ev - ’ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv’n.” With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free.”

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient era - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

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. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

back cover

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1: 1-12

back cover

Stand

HYMN

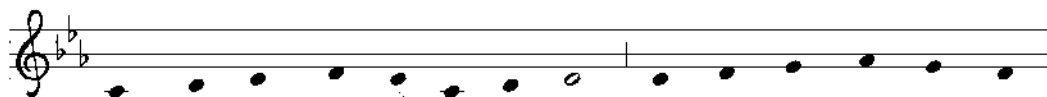
Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW #295)



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



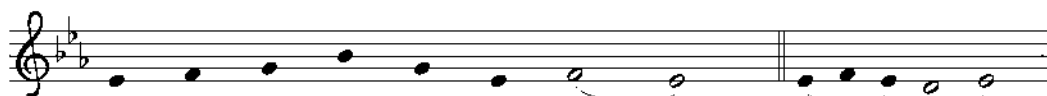
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - er, and that fu - ture years shall see,
pect - ed; first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
si - lent; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
min - ion, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
A - men.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

back cover

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

CHANCEL CHOIR

Born this Day is the Son of God

Fred Onovwerosuoke

Stand

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 vir gin
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**

THE PRAYERS

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

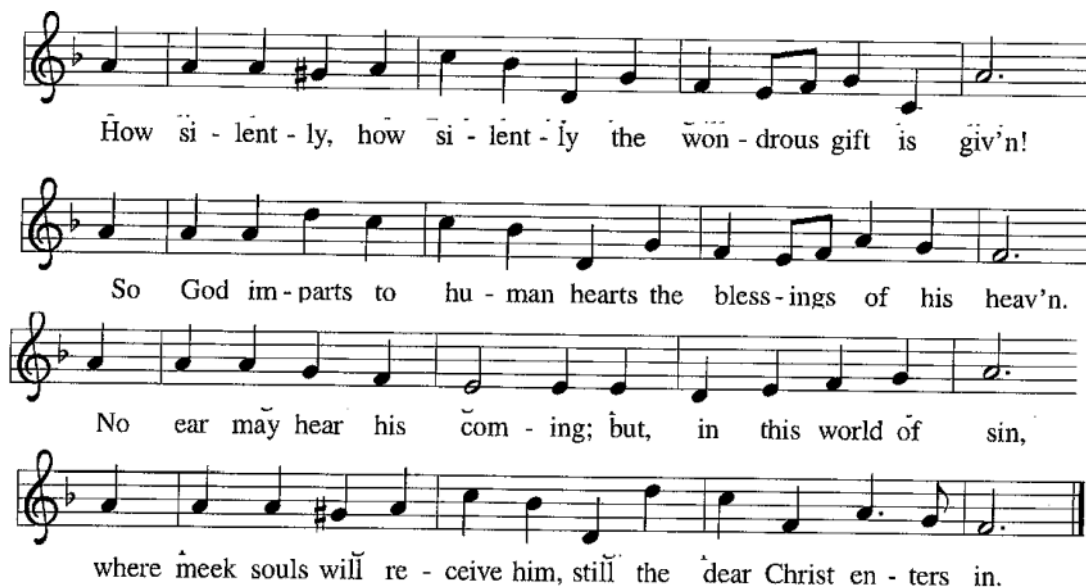
PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem stanza 3 (ELW 279)



How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.

No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

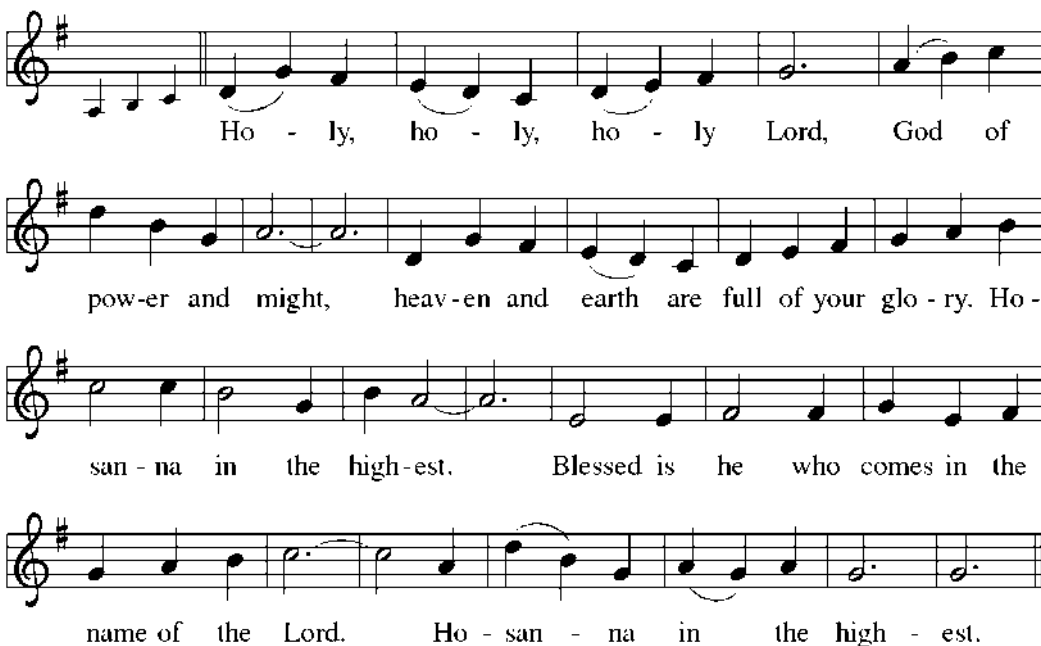
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

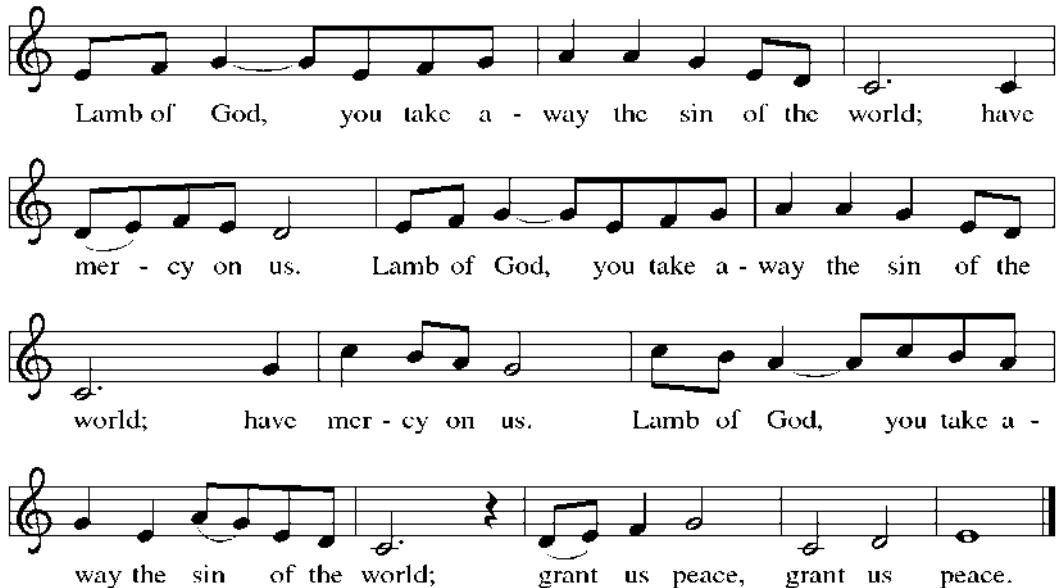
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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 RITE *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI



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

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***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272)***

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - cage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Stand**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty, God, in the incarnation of your Son you began the work of our deliverance from sin and death. Through the grace given us in your Son, strengthen us in spirit and renew in us the New Birth we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN***Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW 287) next page*****POSTLUDE*****Fantasy on "Divinum Mysterium"*****Gerre Hancock**

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!



The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God in memory of Josephine M. Cushner, John Cushner, M.D. & Mary R. Maxwell by JoAnne Cushner Debes & Family

*The Christmas Bulletins are sponsored by
Mim Boyer in loving memory of her husband, David Boyer.*

**THE ENTIRE ST. PAUL'S STAFF WISH YOU THE JOYS AND BLESSINGS OF THIS HOLY
SEASON. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM:
VICTOR, TED, PATEE, KELLY, LEAH, JULIANNA, DEB, AND PASTOR STAN.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

PSALM 98

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,

and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of
your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated
wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end."]

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

In 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.

Next Sunday's Readings: Name of Jesus Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21 **OR First Sunday of Christmas** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R