

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2023 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion



Hand Carved African Nativity Made From Tanzanian Rosewood And Ebony

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

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 187 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. Directions on the procedure for distribution are provided in the body of the service folder.

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. We are always in need of volunteers who are bilingual Spanish/English.

ST. PAUL’S PRESCHOOL

Early childhood education is a major part of child development. St. Paul’s preschool is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2024. 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. in the Community Room located on the Lower Level.

STAFF

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

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2023

Holy Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 1

PRELUDE

He is Born

Richard Hudson

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

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.

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

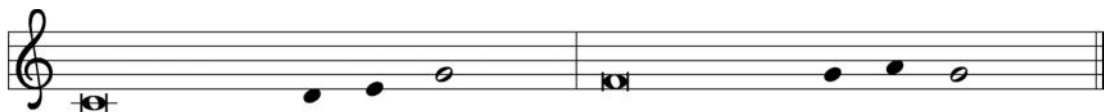
Isaiah 52:7-10

back cover

PSALM

Psalm 98

The organ introduces the tone, then the Psalm is sung unaccompanied by Cantor/Congregation



- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things.
- ² **With his right hand and his | holy arm***
has he won for him- | self the victory.
- ³ The LORD has made | known his victory;*
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- ⁴ **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;*
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- ⁶ **Sing to the LORD | with the harp,***
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- ⁸ **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,***
the lands and those who | dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers | clap their hands,*
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to | judge the earth.
- ¹⁰ **In righteousness shall he | judge the world***
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1: 1-4

back cover

Stand

VERSE





al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



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

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let All Together Praise Our God (ELW287)*



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!

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 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

THE PRAYERS

We offer our prayers for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

O God, we pray for the newly baptized. Teach us to live by your grace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask you to still the storms that threaten lands and to send relief to all places and peoples experiencing natural disasters, extreme temperatures, or famine. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for peacemakers, community organizers, and advocates who work to ensure that all people flourish. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who feel forsaken or forlorn, especially those who are marginalized in any way. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for all families, especially adoptive families, foster families, and guardians and especially for the work of Diakon. Hold in mercy all who are childless, by choice or by life circumstance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of the saints. Teach us by their example to serve you with joy and honesty of heart, so that we live as heirs of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace made known through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



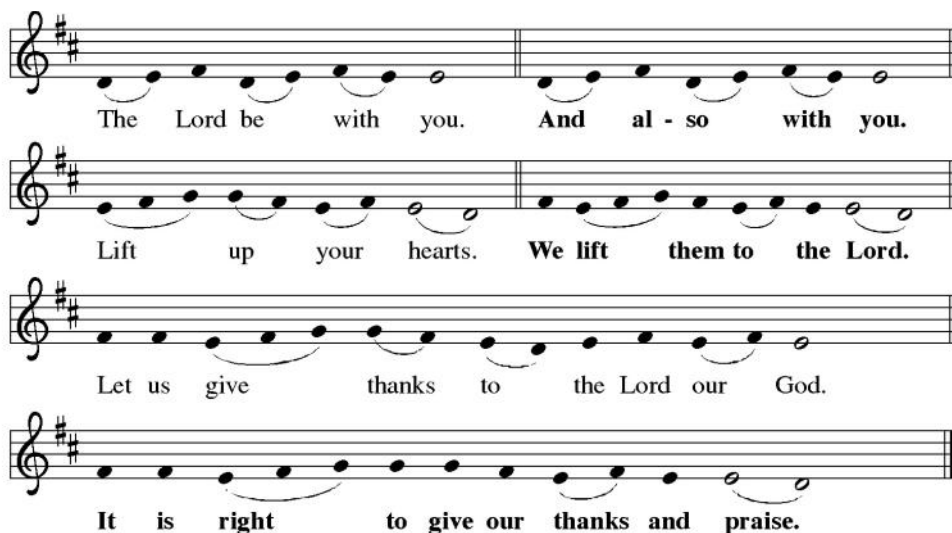
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

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 al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

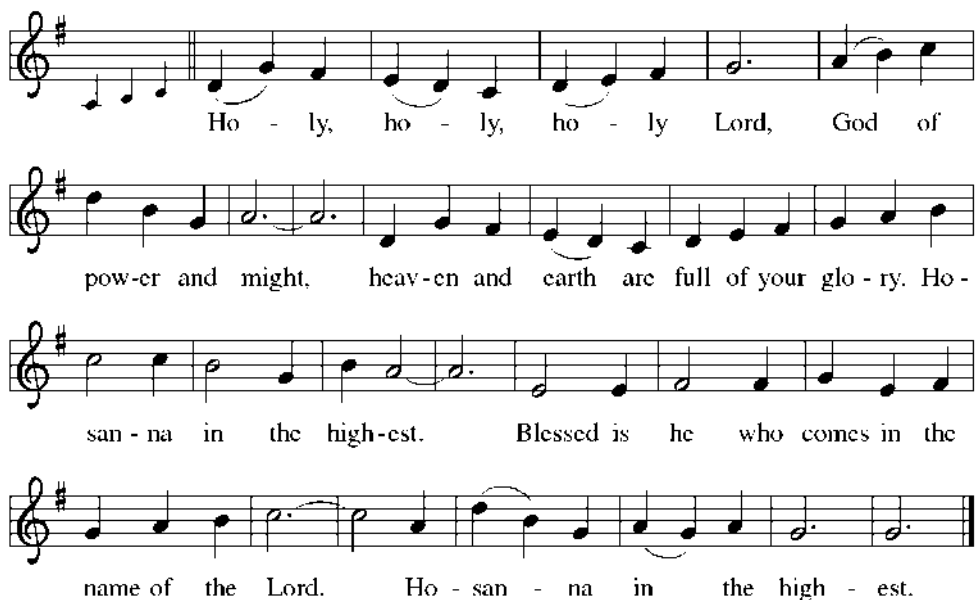
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

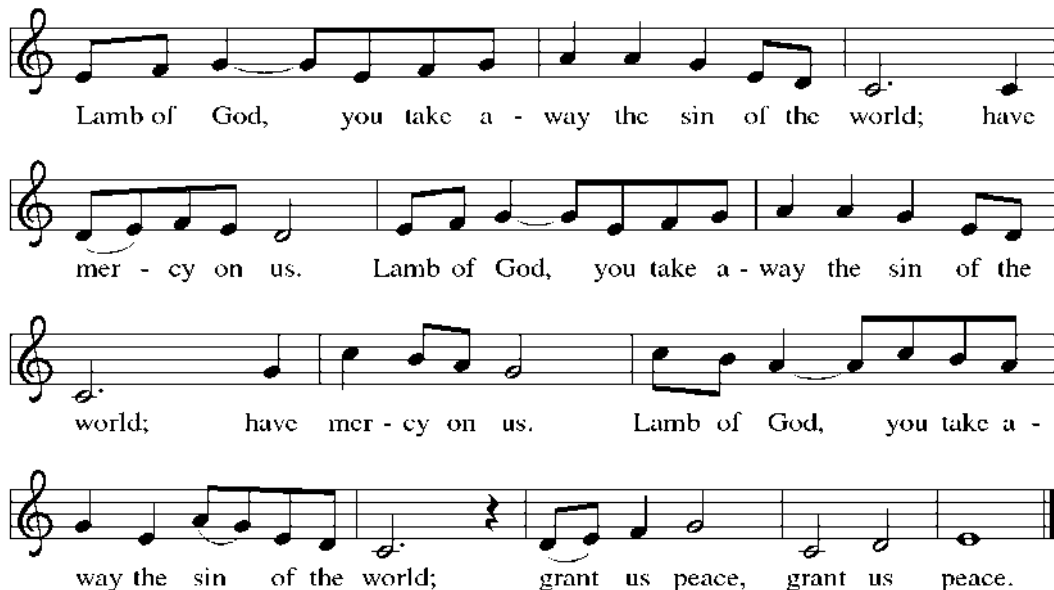
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

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

Stanza 1 Cantor; Stanza 2 Cantors;

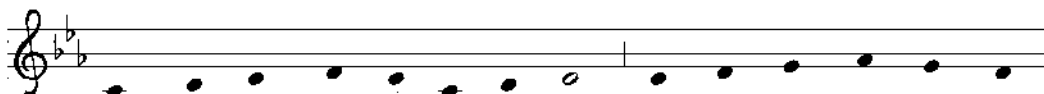
Stanza 3 All unaccompanied ; Stanza 4 with organ; Stanza 5 All



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

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Norman Dello Joio

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies



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, ALLISON, AND PASTOR STAN.

Poinsettias



In Loving Memory of . . .

Margaret Griffin, Mildred Blake, Jim Blake, Glen & Ruth Moyer, Ike & Alice Vinik by
Kirsten & Sammy Barnes

My Husband, Curvin Berkheimer and my Son, Thomas Berkheimer by Janet Berkheimer
Marion & Hedwig Bloss by Ann & Dean Becker

Our Fathers, David Boyer and Ronald Becker by Larry & Deb Becker

Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, M.D., & Mary R. Maxwell by Jo Anne Cushner Debes
& Family

Donald Heistand by the Heistand Family

Our Fathers; Francis Ports & Kenneth Hinkle, Our Mothers; Delores Ports & Ruth Hinkle, Our
Sisters; Sandra Hinckle, Dorinda Hinkle, & Susan Holtry by Ken Hinkle and Jenifer Ports

Our Loved Ones by Frank & Earline Jones

Paul & Ann Moyer and Cynthia Dotzel by Paula Kottcamp

Grandparents-Elmer & Adela Schmidt, Grandmother-Margaret Diggs, & Mother-in-Law,
Rosa Fernandez and dear friend, Marj Junker by Tina Llorente

Richard & Margie Martin, Michael T. Martin, Dale & Sandy Shellenberger, Wilfert & Viola
Wildasin, James & Julia Martin by Tom Martin

Pearl & Ed McKee and Elsie & Paul Kennedy by Tom & Judy McKee

Elaine Potter Mummert, Pat Powers Mummert, and Kathryn Mummert by Jim Mummert

Our Parents, by Ronald & Norma Riese

Our Parents, K.F. Ralph Rochow & Phyllis Rochow by K.W. James Rochow & Susan Rochow
Flook

Our Parents Harold & Grace Sargeant, Donald & Bertha Spencer and our Grandson Dalton
Walburn by Donita & Harold Sargeant

My Parents, Frank and Annamarie Polk by Pat Scarborough

Gene & Neil Shue by Norma Shue

My Husband, Don, my Son, Alan, our Parents and my Sisters, Evelyn Loyd & Lois McDowell
dear friends; Jean Williams, Audrey Houck and Peg Stauffer by Norma Ely Spencer

My Husband, John D. Uffelman and my parents and loved ones by Martina Uffelman

Loved ones by the ofWaddail and Van Natten Families

Lois & Vernon Bull, Mary & Henry Weikert, and Matt, Ben & Fred Stauffer
by Ted & Jenny Weikert

Three William H. Kains; Brother, Father, & Great-grandfather by Carol Kain Woodbury

Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day

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.

