

**The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2025 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion**



Adoration of the Shepherds by Caravaggio (1609)

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 189 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 50 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 celebrated 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
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Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2025

Holy Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting I

PRELUDE

Variations on “The Newborn Little Child” Jeffrey Workman

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

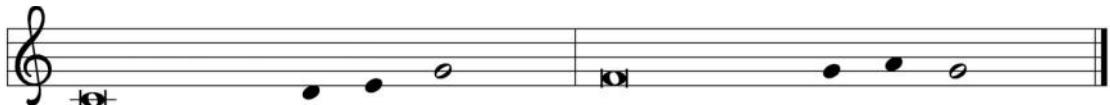
FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10 *back page*

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,
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. Luke the second 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 *When Christmas Morn is Dawning (LBW 59)*

1 When Christ-mas morn is dawn - ing I wish that I could be
2 How kind of you, our Sav - ior, for us to come to earth.
3 We need you, O Lord Je - sus, to be our dear-est friend.

there by the man - ger - cra - dle God's Son, new-born, to see,
Oh, may we not by sin - ning de - spise your low - ly birth.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.

there by the man - ger - cra - dle God's Son, new-born, to see.
Oh, may we not by sin - ning de - spise your low - ly birth.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.

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.

Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring life to barren wastelands, healing where we have caused harm, and bold hearts to respond to creation's call for justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill world leaders with your zeal for righteousness and your love for all people, especially any who are marginalized or oppressed (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill (*especially*).
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fortify us with your grace and fill us with zeal to proclaim the news of your birth to those who long for good news. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

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 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

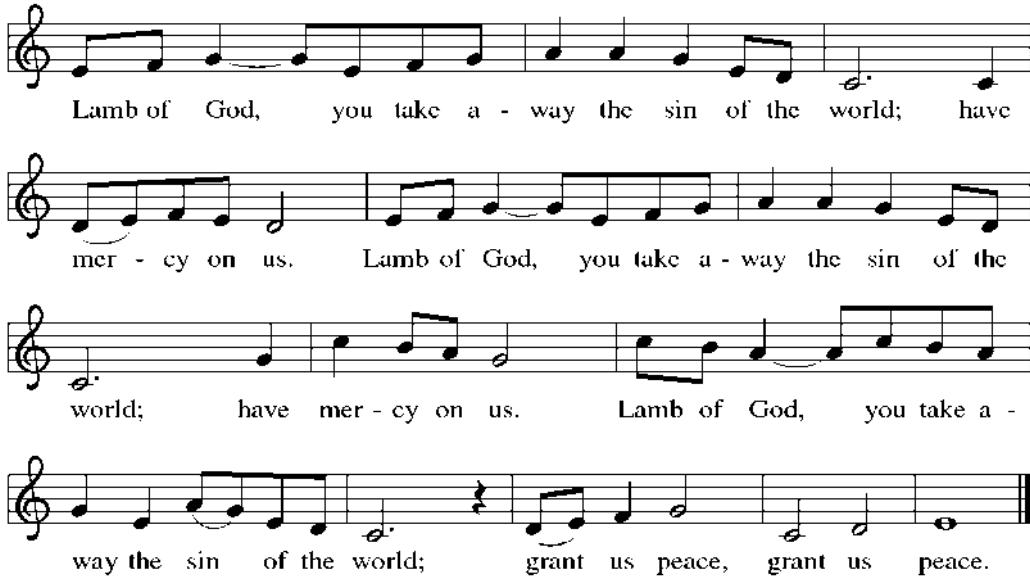
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

1. *Come to communion using the center aisle.*
2. *Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
3. *Take your place along the chancel step.*
4. *The ministers will bring the host and wine to you.*
5. *Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
6. *Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

HYMN

Peace Came to Earth (ELW #285)

1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!

when an - gels clove the sky with song and light
 the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
 in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
 How else could I have loved you, O my God!

and God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—
 the wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
 in bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—
 How else could I em - brace you, O my God!

Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but see Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

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 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 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice (ELW 288) next page*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

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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.

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
12/25 Christ- mas Day	10:30 AM	George Fitch	Larry Moore	Janet Moore	Nancy Banta, Tom Martin		Larry & Janet Moore

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Poinsettias



Poinsettias *In Loving Memory of...*

My Husband, Henry Anstadt by Ann Anstadt

Our Parents, Gloria & Ronald Becker and David Boyer by Larry & Deb Becker

Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, M.D., & Mary R. Maxwell

by Jo Anne Cushner Debes & Family

Family members by Rebecca Deal

Donald Heistand by the Heistand Family

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

Our parents Charles & Lucille Keeports and William & Doris Douglas
by Bonnie & Dick Keeports

Those I've lost by Tina Llorente

Cindy Long by Jason Long

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

Pastor Judy McKee by her family

Our Dads, Nicholas W. Rutledge and Brian Miller by Lisa & Josh Miller

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Carl Simon and Mr. & Mrs. William F. Simon
by Sarah Morgan & Geoffrey Simon

Elaine Potter Mummert, & Pat Powers Mummert, by Jim Mummert

Louis & Norma Sipling by the Palmers

Our Parents, by Ronald & Norma Riese

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

Our Parents Harold & Grace Sargeant, Donald & Bertha Spencer
by Donita & Harold Sargeant

My Parents, Frank and Annamarie Polk by Pat Scarborough

Gene & Neil Shue by Norma Shue & Family

My Husband, Donald, my Son, Alan, my Sisters, Evelyn Loyd & Lois McDowell,
my niece Dr. Kathy McDowell, our Parents Loyd & Helen Spencer and Chester
& Laura Ely by Norma Ely Spencer

My Husband, John Uffelman, Sr. by Martina Uffelman

In Honor of . . .

St. Paul's Chancel Choir by Victor Fields

My Grandchildren, Alexis & Thomas Heistand, and Daniel, Ryan, & Brynn Butler
by June Heistand

Our Grandchildren Christian, Amelia, & Audrey by Dave & Sue Kopp

My Family by Pastor Tom McKee

Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren by Donita & Harold Sargeant

My Great-grandchildren, Jordan, Spencer & Eli Nicoll; Nicholas & Emily

Roedersheimer by Norma Ely Spencer

The Choir and Victor Fields by Geoffrey Simon & Sarah Morgan

My Family by Linda Turner

My Children and Grandchildren by Martina Uffelman

Dedicated to the Glory Of God . . .

Ann Anstadt

Victor Fields

Bonnie & Dick Keeports

Fred & Elinor Rosenmiller

Martina Uffelman

Pat & Gary Van Natten



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
And by The Ericsons in celebration of the birth of our
Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

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.

