



The Night the Animals Sang

By Katherine Babb



St. Paul's
Missouri Synod Lutheran

Third Sunday in Advent - December 14, 2025

Opening Hymn - Oh, What a Glorious Night

Sidewalk Prophets

Please Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by
all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

Invocation

Confession and Absolution*

Psalm 146:5, 7b–8a; Philippians 1:6

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD
opens the eyes of the blind.**

*Please Kneel/Stand/Sit in silence
for self-examination.*

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned against You
this day. Some of my sin I know—the
thoughts and words and deeds of which
I am ashamed—but some is known only
to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask
forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that
I may rest in peace.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son
to die for you and for His sake forgives you all
your sins. As a called and ordained servant of
Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive
you all your sins in the name of the Father and
of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

He who began a good work in you will bring
it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*Lighting of Advent Wreath takes place while
the Introit is read responsively*

Introit

Psalm 71:14–18;
antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

and will praise you yet more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all the day,

for their number is past my knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God

I will come;

**I will remind them of your righteousness,
yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have taught me,

and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God,
do not forsake me,

**until I proclaim your might to another
generation, your power to all those
to come.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie

(Hymnal) LSB 204

Please Sit

357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 205

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our
prayers and to lighten the darkness of our
hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 205

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,
the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord

has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

LSB 207

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Please Sit

Children's Christmas Program

The Friendly Beasts *Congregation Sing*

Jesus our brother kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around Him stood
Jesus our brother kind and good

"I" said the donkey shaggy and brown
"I carried His mother up hill and down
"I carried His mother to Bethlehem town
"I" said the donkey shaggy and brown

"I" said the cow all white and red
"I gave Him my manger for His bed
"I gave Him my hay to pillow His head
"I" said the cow all white and red

"I" said the sheep with the curly horn
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm
"He wore my coat on Christmas morn
"I" said the sheep with the curly horn

"I" said the dove from the rafters high
"I cooed Him to sleep that He would not cry
"We cooed Him to sleep my mate and I
"I" said the dove from the rafters high

Thus every beast by some good spell
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel
The gift he gave Emmanuel

Hymn - 364 - Away in a Manger

Please Stand

Prayer of the Church LSB 207

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.**

Please Sit

Offering

Please Stand

Offering Prayer

Closing Prayer*

Almighty God, heavenly Father, grant to
Your people patience for the days of waiting,
knowing that You are at work bringing to
completion all that You began in us in our
Baptism. Keep us from the torment of doubt,
from the prison of fear, and from the wandering
of a soul ungrounded in Your Word and favor,
and bring us at last to heavenly joy in Your
presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord, who with the Father and the Spirit
are one God, now and even to the end of all
the ages.

Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

Benediction

Closing Hymn - 349 - Hark the Glad Sound

***The children & teachers of
St. Paul's Sunday School wish you all
A Merry Christmas and all the joys
of the Christmas Season.***

*Thank you to all the children & adults
who helped with the Sunday School program.*

*Thank you to the congregation for the
support and help throughout the year for making
the Sunday School program possible!*

**Please note: There will be no Sunday School
Dec. 21st & 28th. Classes will resume Jan. 4th.**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

570-836-2301 (call/text)

5672 SR 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Pastor Josh

pastorjosh@stpaulslutheranpa.org

Website – stpaulslutheranpa.org

Sermons are posted here:

youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheran-Tunkhannock/streams

Offering – Monthly offering needs are
\$10,888.75. Offerings for November – \$11,101.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

*Service element taken from: Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Friendly Beasts - Hal Wright, Karen Mitzo Hilderbrand, Kim Mitzo Thompson CCLI Song #7127098
© Twin Sisters IP, LLC
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License #3278613

Church Events

Christmas Gifts DUE TODAY at the church!

Please talk to Diane Turrell if you need to get the gift to her before Wednesday.

Many Thanks to ALL that contributed to the Soup Kitchen collection of goods and money!

If you would still like to donate, please leave the goods at the church and Pastor Josh will deliver. Please place any check or cash donations in the offering plate and note on the envelope or check "For the Soup Kitchen."

Meet with Pastor Josh - sign-up sheet in narthex

Advent Bible Study on Wednesday Night

Starting Dec 3. Light dinner at 5 pm.
Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but where does the celebration originate? With so much information about Christmas out there, it is hard to know what to believe.

Join us Wednesdays during Advent as we separate the holiday from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition by using Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*.

Prayer Concerns

Mabel Lawson - Health issues

Ashley Forba - Ongoing health issues

Mary Ellen Mills - Eye issues

Janet Finn - Continued rehab after knee replacement

Elaine Decker - Ongoing health issues

Vladimir and Marie Dutko - Healing and well-being - Marina Yarasavage's parents

Keith Mitchell's father - Kendall Health issues

All those in the armed forces, including Kyle Stackhouse

All those suffering due to natural disasters

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 1 *Rob and Heather Slater - Anniversary*

Dec 6 Marina Yarasavage

Dec 13 *Jerry and Elaine Decker - Anniversary*

Dec 16 Jacob Learn
Keith Mitchell

Dec 29 Diane Turrell

Dec 30 Richard Cline III

Those Who Serve

Date	Reader	Ushers	Acolyte
Dec 7	Donna W	Willy F & Jack P	Nate J
Dec 14	Karen M	Keith M & Willy F	Kayla S
Dec 21	Bill Y	Jack W & Gene A	Nate J
Dec 24 Eve	Donna W	Will F & Bill Y	Nate J

Officers for St. Paul's Church 2024-2025

President	Becky Durland	570-836-4532
Secretary	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971
Treasurer	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Financial Secretary	Linda Wozniak	570-380-3880

Elders

Willy Forba	570-836-6173
Paul De Groat	570-290-9626
Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Gene Adams	570-833-4616
Pete Waldenberger	570-278-9211

Endowment Committee

Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Bill Yarasavage	570-690-0879
Keith Mitchell	570-934-2314
Nancy Loch	570-965-2042

Board Council Members

Church Properties	Donna Waldenberger	570-278-9211
Christian Education	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Evangelism	Diane Turrell	570-665-1369
Fellowship	Marina Yarasavage	570-690-0871
Youth Services	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	Advent 3 Bible Study 5 pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	Advent 10 Bible Study	11	Christmas 12 in Our Hometown 4 pm set-up	Youth 13 Cookie Bake 9 am
Youth 14 Program & Brunch Christmas Gifts due	15	16	Advent 17 Bible Study	18 Christmas Gifts delivered	19	20
21	22	23	Christmas 24 Eve Service 7 pm	25 Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31			