

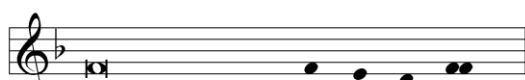
*Midweek Advent Evening Prayer Service*

**Carols for the Newborn King**

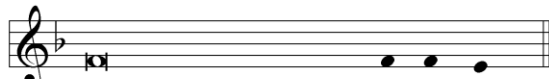
*December 7, 2016*

*“Evening Prayer” is based on the historic service called “Vespers.” Christians gather at the end of the day to raise their voices in thankful praise and prayer. The “Service of Light” portrays the comforting and ever-present light of Christ as daylight disappears.*

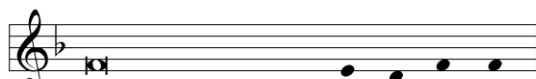
**BELLS / WELCOME**



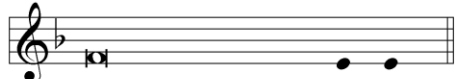
**M:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



**C:** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



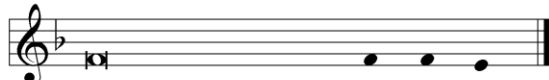
**M:** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C:** and the day is almost o - ver.



**M:** Be our light and scat - ter the dark - ness,



**C:** and hear our evening hymn of praise.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the  
 2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are  
 3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
 lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
 God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through



blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.  
 Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
 all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

M Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

### LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU

*Psalm 141*

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

M Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9, Bible page 1204

M The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN 61

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
*(The hymn will be sung as part of the sermon.)*

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. They sing of the One who deserves the highest praise.
2. They sing of the One who desires to live in every heart.

#### SONG OF MARY





He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich  
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the  
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his  
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,  
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

## OFFERING

### LORD HAVE MERCY

#### *Kyrie*

M In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C **Christ, have mercy.**

M For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**M** For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**M** For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**M** In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** **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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

#### HYMN 12

#### Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

#### PRAYER FOR PEACE

**M** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

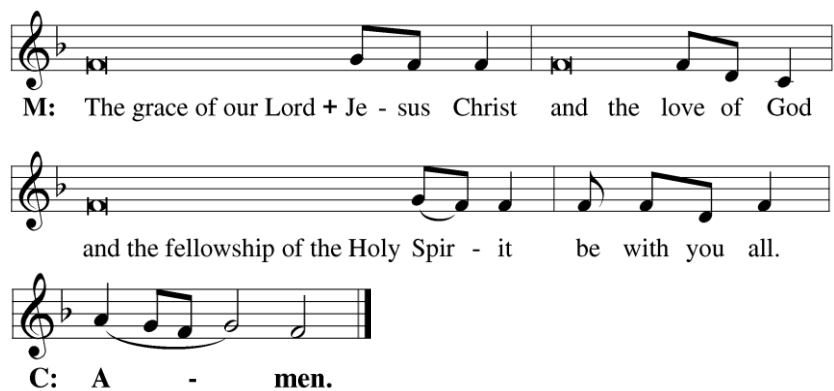
## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part  
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen  
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry  
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.  
C: A - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

ORGANIST *Nicole Greanya*

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016



**SOEL Christmas Program:** Thursday, December 15, 5:30 pm

**Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Services:** Thursday, December 22, 5:00 and 7:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Services:** 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, and 10:30 pm

**Christmas Day Traditional Services:** 7:45 and 9:15 am with Holy Communion

**Christmas Day Contemporary Service:** 10:45 am with Holy Communion (No Bridge service)

**New Year's Eve Service:** 5:00 pm with Holy Communion

**New Year's Day Traditional Service:** 7:45 and 9:15 am

**New Year's Day Contemporary Service:** 10:45 am (No Bridge service)

*\*\* There will be no Wednesday evening worship services on December 21 and 28.*

**CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS!** Saturday, December 10, 9:00 am

Children age 3 through 12 are invited to enjoy a Christmas message, singing, crafts, games, and puppet show from 9:00 am until noon in the Trinity Café and Gym. The children are asked to bring a non-perishable food item as their ticket for the event. Parents may stay and assist if desired. Register by going online at [stpaulmuskego.org/Christmas-for-kids-registration](http://stpaulmuskego.org/Christmas-for-kids-registration) or by completing the back of your Connection Card today.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES

3:30 and 7:00 pm – No soup supper December 14

### Carols for the Newborn King

If there is anything that calls our attention to the fact that Christmas is coming, it is the music that surrounds us during this season. Music has always been an integral part of human societies. It is used to express strong emotions, “to soothe the savage breast,” to stir up soldiers for battle, and even to draw lovers closer to each other. The great hymns of Christmas take us to the center of our faith in Christ.



### December 14                      Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising!                      Hymn 42

The shepherds' uplook and outlook encouraged Paul Gerhardt to write this greatly loved Christmas carol as he grieved over the tragic loss of his wife and three of his children. He found assurance in God's gift of eternal life in Jesus, knowing that his family was safe in their Savior's arms.

### THANKS FOR THIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

We thank the over 150 volunteers who made St. Paul's 2016 Living Nativity possible. A total of 1,704 individuals attended the three-night run of 24 individual performances. Since St. Paul's first Living Nativity in 2000, over 27,000 people have experienced this celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. God-willing, we will present the Living Nativity again in December 2018.

