

A Midweek Devotional

ADVENT

December 3, 2025



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While Shepherds Watched

An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional

Service One: The Shepherd Abraham

December 3, 2025

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose is Growing”

Paul Manz

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367 v. 1-3



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock.

People: All who believe, as Abraham did, receive your promised righteousness.

Pastor: We are the people you care for, the flock for which you provide.

People: You make us lie down in green pastures; you lead us beside the still waters; you restore our souls.

Pastor: All of us were like sheep who had gone astray, turning to our own ways.

People: You lead us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

Pastor: From death you raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

People: Even in the valley of darkest shadows, your rod and staff provide comfort.

Pastor: "Have no fear, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

People: At your table we are secure; our heads are anointed, our cups overflow.

Pastor: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd, to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

People: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Pastor: All who believe, as Abraham did, receive the Lord's promised righteousness.

GATHERING HIS FLOCK

tune: LSB 375

**♪ He whom shepherds came beholding, In the arms of faith enfolding,
He, the universe upholding, Our Good Shepherd, Christ draws near.**

**Lift your eyes, God's mercy knowing; Like the stars in heaven glowing,
Count God's blessings overflowing. Look, O shepherds, God is here!**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up, O Lord, your mighty power. Come quickly. Save us. We need protection from the grave dangers of our sins. We require release from the sin-shackles that bind us. You, O Key of David, have the power to forever free us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

**♪ Christians, come; the blessing ponder: Though like sheep we all did wander,
Still our Shepherd seeks us yonder, For we have been sought and found.**

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

(Look toward heaven, number the stars)

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 4:17-25

(Abraham grew strong in his faith and gave glory to God)

¹⁷ As it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

St. Peter Lutheran School 4th Grade Choir, Macomb

THE GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-47, 56-58

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th Chapter:

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” ...

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”


Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

LSB 393



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!

THE HOMILY

"You Get What You Get"

Genesis 15:2

Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski, Senior Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Royal Oak, MI

OFFERTORY

LSB 370 v. 1

♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.



VOLUNTARY

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

James Engel

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: O Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock. Come and lead us now, we pray. In order that we may not want, lead us to the green pastures of your gracious Word and to the still waters of your precious promises. In order that our faith may flourish, lift our eyes, as once you lifted those of Abraham, to anticipate the blessings you bestow upon us

through the promised seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ our Lord, the perfect sacrifice whom you provided so that we may not perish, but have eternal life. Within the congregations of your Church,

People: **send faithful shepherds to call your people with your own voice and lead them in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.**

Pastor: In the midst of the joy which surrounds us in these days, let your rod and staff comfort those who walk through dark valleys: the sick and the sorrowing, the needy and the afflicted, the hungry and the homeless, and those who wander like sheep without a shepherd. Anoint them with the oil of your compassion, and let their cups of blessing overflow.

People: **Let there be peace on earth, O God. Wherever there is strife, let good will prevail.**

Pastor: And lift our eyes, as once you lifted Abraham's, to the joy which awaits when Christ, who came as you had promised, will come again. Unite us then with Abraham and Sarah, with Isaac and Rebekah,

People: **with all the faithful saints who heard your Word and did your will, trusting in your wondrous promises.**

Pastor: It is in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, fulfiller of your Word.

People: **Amen.**

THE 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.

BENEDICTION *from Hebrews 13:20-21*

Pastor: From death God has raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

People: **His sacrificial death guarantees the eternal covenant.**

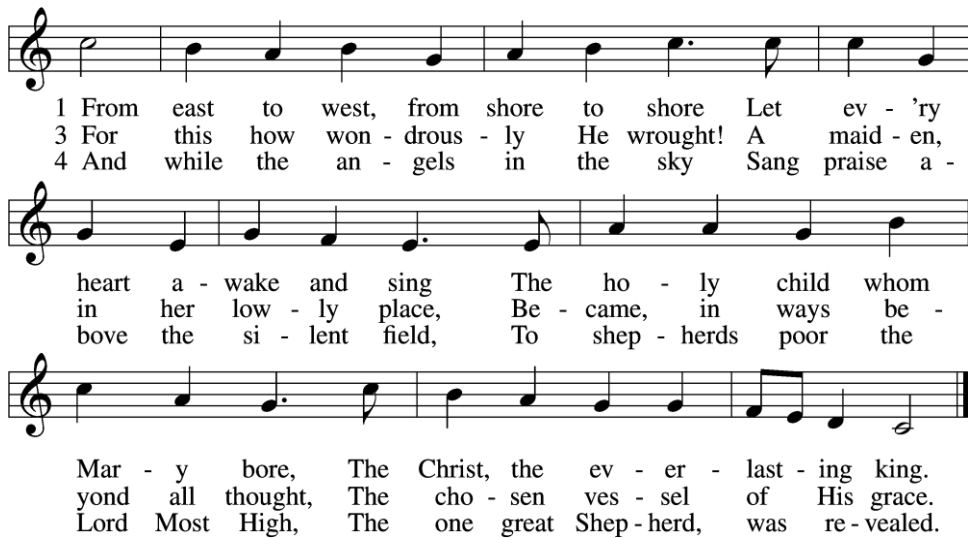
Pastor: May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will.

People: **And may God, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him.**

Pastor: And to † Christ be the glory forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

RELEASING HIS FLOCK



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -

heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the

Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.

POSTLUDE

"From Heaven Above"

Wilbur Held

Christmas at **Historic Trinity** Lutheran Church

December 7	The Second Sunday of Advent	9am/10:30am
December 10	While Shepherds Watched: <i>Moses</i> <i>with Peace Lutheran School Choir; Rev. Ben Marsh, preaching</i>	12pm
December 14	The Third Sunday of Advent	9am/10:30am
December 14	German Christmas Service	4pm
December 17	While Shepherds Watched: <i>David</i> <i>with Immanuel Lutheran 4th grade Choir; Rev. Ben Spaulding, preaching</i>	12pm
December 21	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	9am/10:30am
December 23	The Eve of Christmas Eve	7pm
December 24	Festival of the Nativity: <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6pm/8pm/10pm
December 25	Festival of the Nativity: <i>Christmas Morn</i>	10am
December 28	The First Sunday of Christmas	9am/10:30am
December 31	The Eve of the New Year	5pm