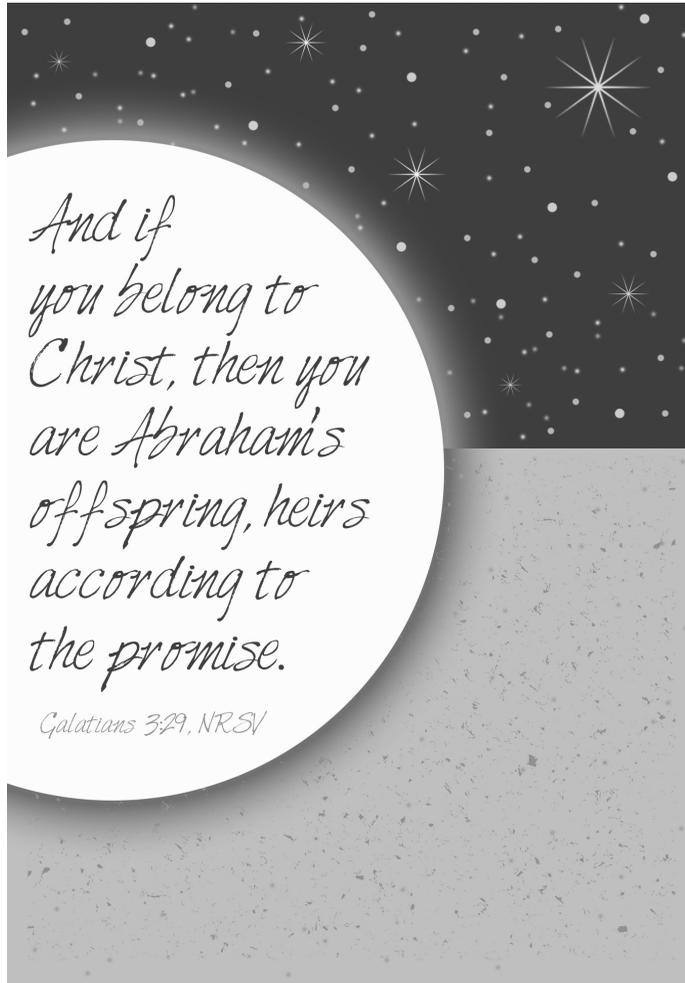


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



*And if
you belong to
Christ, then you
are Abraham's
offspring, heirs
according to
the promise.*

Galatians 3:29, NRSV

**A Savior is Born
To Make Us Children of God**
The First Sunday after Christmas

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

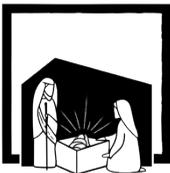
January 1, 2023

Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Sunday



Christmas holidays mean family time. Extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts given, memories are made. The memories might not all be good. Sometimes, Christmas dinners end in fights. Sometimes, hurt feelings keep family from coming together during the holidays. The painful reality is that we sinners fail our families, and our families fail us.

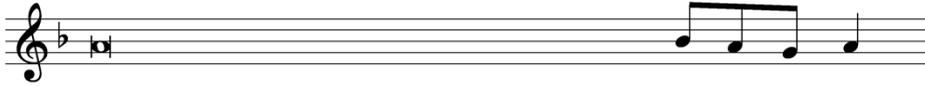
God knows what that's like. He, too, wanted his children to be everything he hoped for them to be. But he was sorely disappointed. That's why he made a plan. God the Father sent Jesus to be the son that he always wanted—reciprocal in love, perfect in obedience, unwavering in devotion. Jesus came to be everything that God wanted from us.

By coming to be the true Son of the Father, Jesus gives us rights to be redeemed sons and daughters—sons just like Jesus with the rights, the relationship, and the privileges of heirs.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Acknowledgements

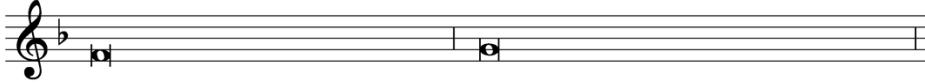
Setting One from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.



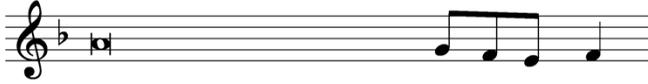
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



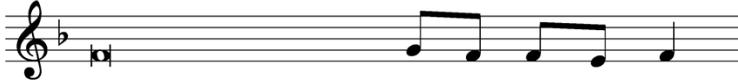
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Kevin Becker Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
 God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
 For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal Son of God, on this day you were called Jesus, a name that proclaims you Savior of all people. Give us strength in the new year to live each day to the honor of your name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Numbers 6:22–27

Jesus took on a human name so that God could put his name on us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

8D I Will Praise Your Name Forever

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Tone



LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in / all the earth!

You have set your glory in the / heavens.

**When I consider your heavens, the work of your / fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have / set in place,
what is a human being that you are mind- / ful of him,
a Son of Man that you / care for him? *Refrain***

You made him a little lower than the / angels
and crowned him with glory and / honor.

**You made him ruler over the works / of your hands;
you put everything un- / der his feet.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

Galatians 3:23–29

God brings us into his family through the gift of baptism.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Lord, in this holy season we rejoice with hearts and voices because you sent your one and only Son from his majestic glory to save us from the slavery of sin and the agonies of death. He took on our human flesh that he might reveal your divine glory.

He became our brother that we might become your children forever.

Give us quiet time during these busy days to reflect on your love and ponder the miracle of our Savior's incarnation. Help us look beyond our gift-giving and gift-receiving, and discover the greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins and life with you. Put the joys of Christmas into the perspective of our eternal celebration.

Let music and art lift our hearts to Christ who is truly the center of the season.

Keep in your loving care all whose Christmas joys have been diminished by sickness and sadness, by unhappy recollections and uncertain hopes. Comfort those who sense this Christmas may be their last, and raise their eyes to the brilliant lights of heaven. Soothe consciences that are troubled by guilt and regret, and show them the forgiving love of Christ.

Be near them, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay close by them forever and love them, we pray.

We commend to your care all who proclaim the message of Christ during these holy days; all who care for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons; and all who put themselves out to bring joy to others, especially children.

Let the light of your grace shine through all ministries of mercy.

Send us your Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift our hearts to confident faith and holy living. By the power of your Word, bring your light to hearts struggling to understand you and searching to find you that they may know the joys of this season as we do.

Empower us to lead them to your love in our words and deeds.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

All this we ask in the name of the newborn King, born in Bethlehem, now living and reigning forever in heaven.

Amen.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

Lord You Were Rich beyond All Splendor

Questions for Examination

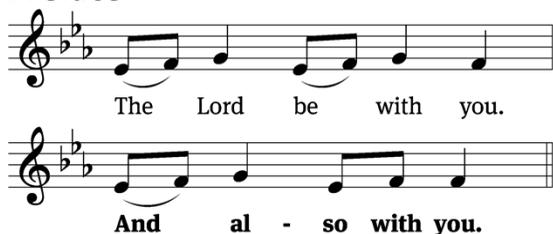
- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 165



The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -

san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,

bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

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

Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

950 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

Take Home Questions

1. We don't often spend time thinking about what happened in the days and weeks following Jesus' birth. What are some things that happen in Luke 2:21-35 that give you confidence or peace as you go into 2023?
2. The Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26) is more than just mere repetition. Similar to question 1, after thinking about the biblical connections these words have, write down what confidence those words give you, especially as you enter into a new year.
3. In Galatians 3:24-25, the law is referred to as a chaperone. Think about what chaperones do still in our day and age and explain why that is a fitting function for the law.
4. Already in Luke 2, Luke makes clear that the gospel message is not just for Israelites. That was one of the biggest reasons he wrote his gospel account, after all. Looking through Luke 2:1-35, highlight the places where that truth is spoken about.



News & Announcements

Family Bible Hour Resume Next Sunday

Jan. 8 | 9:15 AM

Children in 3K-6th grade are invited to Sunday School. Teens and adults are welcome at the Bible study in the cafeteria. We will take a look at the committal service on the 8th and begin a new study on transgenderism.

Foundations of the Faith Workshops

Jan. 21 | 8:30 AM

Our *Foundations of the Christian Faith* course will be held workshop-style over four Saturday mornings. The “workshops” will be spaced, so you aren’t committing to every weekend. The dates are Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Feb. 18, and Mar. 4 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Multiple lessons will be covered each session. We hope to provide onsite childcare. Plus there will be snacks and a lunch each day. This course is essential for those interested in joining our church family. To register, please contact Pastor Plagenz at pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org or 920-689-3036.

Volunteers needed for food and childcare. To make our workshops accessible to more young families, we would like to provide onsite childcare, snacks, and a lunch. If you can help in these areas, please contact Pastor Plagenz.

Come for Men’s Devotional Basketball

Jan. 3 | 5:30 PM

Keep your resolution to get fit or stay this winter. Come for Men’s Devotional Basketball on Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 pm. Enjoy some friendly competition and a little bit of God’s Word. The group will meet every Tuesday through early March.

Richer Marriage Workshop

Feb. 4

Trinity Lutheran Church of the Town of Berlin (located near Merrill, WI) will be having a marriage enrichment event titled “Richer Marriage.” This event will be led by longtime WELS pastor and marriage enrichment event presenter, Randy Hunter. It will cover the following four topics: Improve your communication, Move through your conflict, Improve your financial relationship, and Grow your sexual intimacy. It will take place at Trinity on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Snacks, refreshments, and a catered lunch (from Olive Garden) will be provided. The cost is \$35 a couple. If you are married, please consider attending this event! To register, go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for “richer marriage.” If you have any questions or need help registering, call, text, or email Pastor Andy DeGier (920-471-1770 or pastorandydegier@gmail.com).

Holiday Scrip Schedule

No scrip will be sold today. Some stock cards may be available from the office during the week. The NLHS program will resume sales on Jan. 1, and St. Paul’s on the following Sunday.

Sunday	9:30 AM	Worship
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Epiphany Service
Friday	5:00 PM	HOME Basketball Game in the gym
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for 3K thru 6 th grade
	10:30 AM	Worship

Attendance & Offering Report

Christmas Eve Attendance: 245

Christmas Day Attendance: 119

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 461,880

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 352,564

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 ~ Unified Board Meetings

Jan. 12 ~ Willing Workers

Jan. 16 ~ Choir Practices Resume

Jan. 17-18 ~ Freshman Registration at NLHS

Jan. 21 ~ Foundations of the Christian Faith

EPIPHANY SERVICE
 Thursday, Jan. 5
 6:30PM



Guest Preacher:
 Pastor Wayne Oblender

Special Prayers This Week:

† For Mr. Justin Vilski, who we called to serve as our principal

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Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org