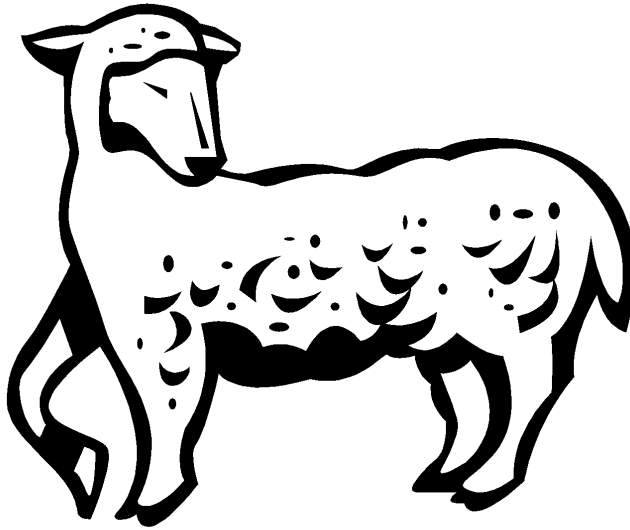


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



“Look, here
is the Lamb
of God!”

John 1:36, NRSV

Identity Revealed:
Jesus Is the Lamb of God
Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18, 2026



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 Service



For centuries Israel offered sacrifices to God for sin. Over and over, a substitute shed its blood to earn forgiveness. Then Jesus appeared, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful mankind. Connected to him by faith, you have new perspective and new motivation for living a Christian life.

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.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist: Tammy Paul; Musical Offering: Chris Williams

Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text 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.

The Service

Welcome

Hymn

525 The Lamb

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.


Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191


The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to' written below it. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, with the lyrics 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,' written below it. The music is written in treble clef.



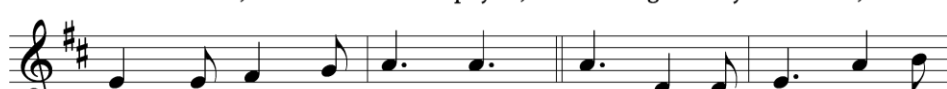
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



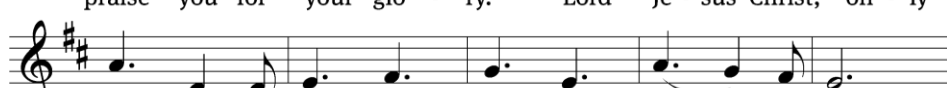
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



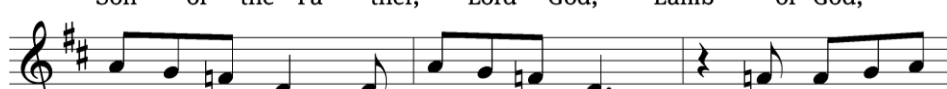
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



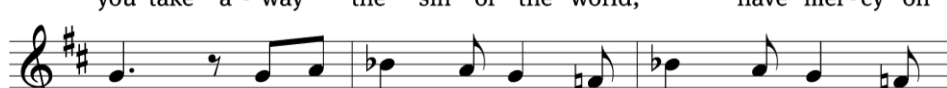
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



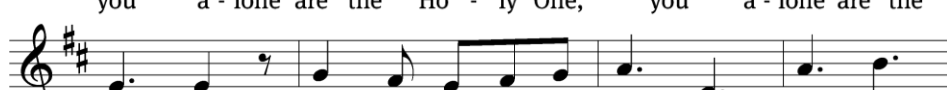
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



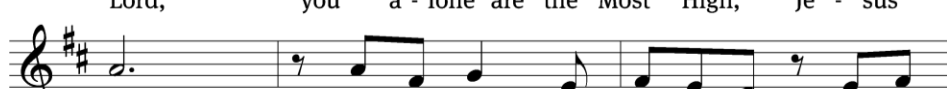
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



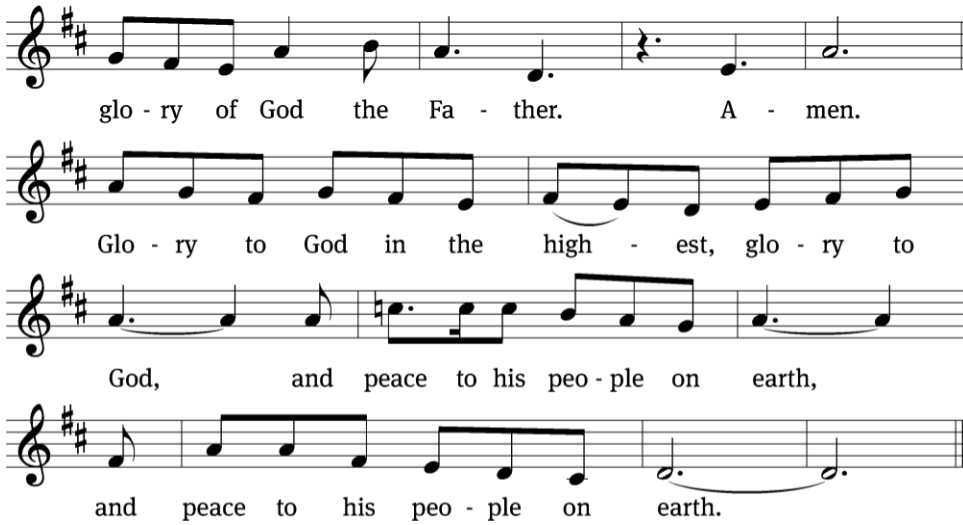
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman; © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1–6

God would display his splendor by the suffering of the Servant of the Lord.

¹Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you faraway peoples! The LORD called me from the womb. When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword. He hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me a polished arrow. He concealed me in his quiver. ³He said to me, "You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory."

⁴But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain. I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing. Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD, and my reward is with my God.”

⁵But now the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to turn Jacob back to him, so that Israel might be gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD, because my God has been my strength— ⁶the LORD said: “It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 2:6–15

The Lamb of God was flesh and blood so he could be sacrificed to win forgiveness of all our sins.

⁶Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷by being rooted and built up in him, and strengthened in the faith just as you were taught, while you overflow in faith with thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, which are in accord with human tradition, namely, the basic principles of the world, but not in accord with Christ. ⁹For all the fullness of God's being dwells bodily in Christ. ¹⁰And you have been brought to fullness in him. Christ is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹You were also circumcised in him, with a circumcision not done by human hands, in the putting off of the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, ¹²when you were buried with Christ in baptism. And in baptism you were also raised with him through the faith worked by the God who raised Christ from the dead.

¹³Even when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses. ¹⁴God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵After disarming the rulers and authorities, he made a public display of them by triumphing over them in Christ. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

1 John 2:2

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:29–41

As the last and greatest of the prophets, John beautifully summarizes God’s plan of salvation by pointing to Jesus and calling him the Lamb of God.

²⁹The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know who he was, but I came baptizing with water so that he would be revealed to Israel.”

³²John also testified, “I saw the Spirit descend like a dove from heaven and remain on him. ³³I myself did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I saw this myself and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day, John was standing there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned around and saw them following him, he asked, “What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹He told them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying. They stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his own brother Simon and say to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is translated “the Christ”). (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

375 Arise and Shine in Splendor

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Be seated

Special Prayers This Week

- † For Marlene Gengler, who fell and broke her leg.
- † For Pastor Jeremiah Wallander, whom we called to serve as our second pastor.
- † For those traveling to the leadership conference in Chicago
- † Thanksgiving that the remaining debt at Northland Lutheran High School has been fully eliminated.
- †
- †

Prayer of the Church

Today, the prayer will be offered by individual petitions. Each petition will end this way:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The final petition will end this way:

...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. 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

Behold the Lamb of God

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, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.*

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also 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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
 heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman

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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.

Lamb of God

CW 202



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, grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

814 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*
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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

519 *There Is a Redeemer*



Take Home Questions

Isaiah 49:1-6

1. For what reasons is it fitting that God uses suffering, rather than strength or dominance, to bring salvation to the world?
2. In what ways does Isaiah 49 help us understand that Jesus' identity as the Lamb of God is not an interruption of God's plan, but its fulfillment?
3. What might we misunderstand about God if we expect his glory to always look powerful, impressive, or victorious by worldly standards?

Colossians 2:6-15

4. Paul says we have been "buried with Christ" and "raised with him." In what ways does this language shape your understanding of your Christian identity?
5. Verse 14 says Christ canceled the record of debt and nailed it to the cross. What kinds of "records" have you kept against yourself or others?
6. How does Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb free us from living under those records?

John 1:29-41

7. John the Baptist points away from himself and says, "Look, the Lamb of God." Why is it significant that Jesus is introduced this way at the beginning of his ministry?
8. In what ways is God's solution to sin in "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" different from how people often expect sin to be solved?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: The Discipleship Process

Come to the Bible Study Room from 10:30-11:30 am



Pastor Called

Jan. 12 | 6:30 pm

On Monday, January 12, St. Paul's issued a divine call to Pastor Jeremiah Wallander to serve as our Youth and Family Pastor. Pastor Wallander is currently serving as a tutor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI. He and his wife have two children. Your words of encouragement and connection can be a blessing as he weighs where the Lord may be leading him to serve. Pastor Wallander can be reached at jeremiah.m.wallander@mlsem.org or by phone at 920-268-9525.

St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night

Jan 27 | 6:00-8:00 pm

This week, nine of our church members will be attending the WELS National Lutheran Leadership Conference in Chicago. We invite to hear the insights they gained during St. Paul's Lutheran Leadership Night on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Our group and the event at our church will also be featured in an upcoming WELS Connection video.

Choir Starting Again on Monday

Jan. 19 | 6:00 pm

Choir will be starting practice again this Monday at 6:00 pm in the balcony. Interested in joining? This is the perfect time as we begin new songs for Lent and Holy Week.

Brrr . . . It's an Igloo Project!

So far, the preschool's "igloo" has risen to three courses, but more milk and water gallon jugs are needed. You can leave your jugs on the bench by the preschool classroom or in the office. Please be sure they are washed out and place the cap back on them.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

St. Paul's is serving at the local food pantry (FOCUS) during the week of Jan 26. We are looking for volunteers to serve on Monday, Thursday, or Friday from 11:45-3:45 and on Tuesday from 3:45-6:45. (The pantry is closed on Wednesday.) To volunteer, please contact Kaytlyn Peardot at kaytlyn.peardot@gmail.com or 970-413-0883.

It's Coming Quickly

Planning is underway for Easter for Kids, which is on Saturday, March 28, and volunteer signups has begun. You can find signups on the Ministry Table or on our website under the Serve tab (www.stpaulswr.org/serve).

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday Worship
 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Bible Study Room
 10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5th)
- Monday** 1:30 PM Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services
 6:00 PM Choir Practice in the balcony
- 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
 4:30 PM HOME Panther Basketball Game in the gym
- Wednesday** 8:45 AM School Chapel Service
 6:00 PM Bible & Brews at B’s Tap House
 6:00 PM Catechism Class in room 110
 6:30 PM Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
- Thursday** 7:00 AM Men’s Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday Worship
 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Bible Study Room
 10:30 AM Sunday School (Grades 3K-5th)

Attendance Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 178

Next Sunday

Theme: Identity Revealed:

Jesus Is the Light

Readings: Isaiah 8:19-9:4, 1 John 2:3-11,

Matthew 4:12-23

Upcoming Events

Jan. 20-27 Freshman Registration at NLHS

Jan. 26-30 St. Paul’s School Spirit Week

Jan. 27 St. Paul’s Leadership Night

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Enrollment for the
 2026-2027 School Year
 Is Now Open.

www.helpingstudentsgrow.com



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Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org