

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

“Come, follow me,
and I will
make you fishers
of men.”

Mark 1:17



EPIPHANY REVEALS OUR LIFE WITH CHRIST:
He Commits Us to a Lofty Charge
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 21, 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 Service



To whom does the work of salvation belong? Simple question. There is only one Savior. But this is how good Jesus is. So that our lives might have profound meaning and eternal purpose, he shares some of that work with us. He calls us not just to be followers, but to be follower-makers. Jesus asks some—prophets, apostles, pastors, missionaries, teachers—to do this full time. But ultimately Jesus asks all believers to serve as his ambassadors, sharing the gospel with whomever he brings into our sphere of influence. This lofty charge requires commitment—a willingness to abandon everything else should faithfulness require it. This is the life-changing revelation for this week. Jesus has committed us to a lofty charge: the privilege to play a role in his saving work.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 10 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Lucas Proeber; Organist Sue Kulhanek; Offering Music Tammy Paul

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Four

Setting Four is not found in the hymnal. Please use this service folder and screens to guide your worship.

Welcome

Hymn

901 O Christians, Haste

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

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.

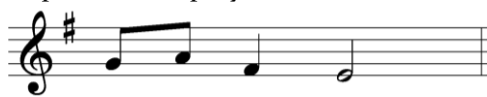
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

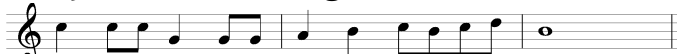
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory to God in the Highest



Glo-ry to God in the high - est 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. 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, re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on
 earth. 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.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jonah 3:1–5,10

Jonah was given the lofty charge to preach to the people of Nineveh. And yet, look at what God brought about through this lofty charge!

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”

³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. ⁴ Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, “Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!”

⁵ The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

¹⁰ When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

818 My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Psalm 62)

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Christ has committed to us the lofty charge of sharing the message of reconciliation.

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

¹⁶ As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 22:22



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I will declare your name to my / people;
in the assembly I will / praise you. **Refrain**

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Gospel

Mark 1:14–20

When Simon and Andrew received the lofty charge of fishing for people, they left all else behind.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ “The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶ As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. (EHV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

743 I Hear the Savior Calling

Sermon

Carry a Net for Jesus

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the 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

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.

Special Prayers This Week

† For the sanctity of life, which is often recognized on January 22

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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

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



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.

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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 pow - er, God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

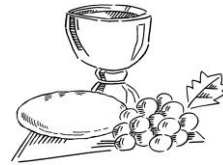
By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.



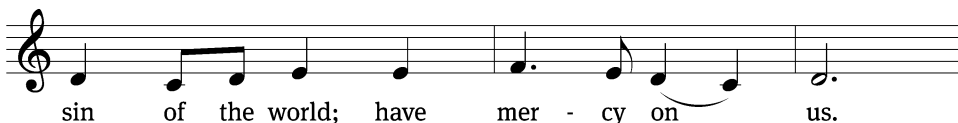
Words of Institution

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



O Christ, Lamb of God, 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. A - men.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

660 *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

Distribution Hymn

695 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

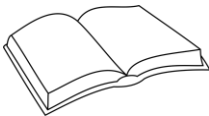
746 I Love to Tell the Story vs. 1, 7, 3



Take Home Questions

1. In Jonah 3:1, God gave Jonah a clear direction and a clear mission. There are certainly times when we might wish God would do the same and give us a big flashing billboard to point us somewhere (job choices, when to talk to someone about a difficult topic, etc.). Discuss the following:
 - a. If God did that, in what ways could it actually be bad for us?
 - b. Where do we find direction from God for every walk of life?
 - i. What if what we're looking for isn't there? What do we have then?
 - c. What is our ultimate mission in our life with Christ?
 - i. In what ways does that main mission help us through the times when we are uncertain about what we ought to do?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:16 says that we regard no one according to the flesh. Take turns putting that in your own words.
 - a. Look at the second half of that verse, as well. What are some ways that people in the world know "Christ according to the flesh"?
 - b. How is that different from the way we, as believers, know him?
3. Discuss the four "subpoints" from the sermon of how Christians commit themselves to the mission of Jesus. What temptations or frustrations try to get in the way of each one? What blessings have you found by doing any of the four, even in a small way?
 - a. Subordinating everything to the Lord
 - b. Imitating Christ's ways
 - c. Sharing Christ's cross
 - d. Sharing Christ's work (of spreading the gospel, NOT paying for our sins)
4. The sermon also mentioned how God tends to work through the ordinary (as opposed to the bright, shiny, and grand). What are some ways God has shown that recently...
 - a. ...at St. Paul's?
 - b. ...in your life?
 - c. In what ways does that reminder help when we feel like we aren't good enough or that we don't do enough?

News & Announcements



Sunday's Bible Study: When Our Children Marry

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Call Meeting & Voters' Meeting Next Sunday

Jan. 28

Next Sunday at 12:30, we are holding a meeting to call for vacancies in our school. (See the monthly newsletter for an explanation of where we stand with calls.) This meeting will immediately be followed by our regular quarterly voters meeting. A packet of reports and other materials has been placed in your mail slot for this meeting. We hope you will also join us for the lunch and fellowship before the meeting – 11:30-12:30 pm. Chili will be served.

Family Literacy Night

Jan. 25 | 6:00 pm

Come for an evening of stories, craft, snack, home devotion ideas, and fellowship. This is geared for ages 3-8, but siblings are welcome. The children can dress in their comfy pajamas, and there will be chances to win free books. The school book fair will also be open during the evening, so you can browse and shop.

Book Fair

Jan. 22-28

St. Paul's is excited to partner with a new company for our annual book fair. I:55 is a company "passionate about raising up a generation of inspired readers." Their name comes from Isaiah 55. This year's book fair theme is "Ocean Expedition." The book fair will be open after school, during literacy night, before the Friday basketball game, and after each church service on next Sunday, Jan. 28. If you want a sneak peek, there are flyers on the Ministry Table. Volunteers are needed to cashier and help in other ways. See the school website (StPaulsWR.org/School) for a signup link.

The Next WELS Youth Night

Feb. 4 | 5:00-8:00 pm

Teens grade 8-12 are for a night of free bowling, free food, and fun prizes! Come to the Marathon City Sports Center (1200 S. St. Hwy 107) on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 5-8 pm. WELS membership not required, so invite your friends! A registration link can be found on our website under the What's Happening tab.



Marriage Enrichment Workshop in Merrill

Feb. 3 | 9:30 am

“Mysterious Marriage” is just two weeks away on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This event at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Town of Berlin (located near Merrill, WI) will help you discover the secret to a great marriage. The cost is \$80 a couple and includes snacks, refreshments, and a catered lunch. To register, go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for “mysterious marriage.” If you have any questions, call, text, or email Pastor Andy DeGier (920-471-1770, pastorandydegier@gmail.com).



Help at Home Basketball Games

St. Paul's Panthers need volunteers for their remaining home games (Jan. 26 and Feb. 2) to help with the concession stand, scoreboard, and scorebook. There is a link to SignUp Genius on the school website (www.StPaulsWR.org/School).

Clean Classrooms

Now that the holidays are over and your plans for 2024 are clearer, please consider volunteering to clean the classrooms at least once during the remainder of the school year. This just involves vacuuming and emptying garbage and recycling. This job needs to be done twice a week, on Wednesday and Friday or Saturday. Your entire family can serve together. Sign up at the Ministry Table.

What If It Is True? Virtual Bible Study

Jan. 23 | 7:00 pm

Join *Forward in Christ* for its first live Bible study series! Bible study author Greg Lyon will lead a study via Zoom on select Tuesdays from January to June. Each study begins at 7:00 pm. The study will examine six scriptural truths in which we, as Christians, put our trust. Through teaching and discussion, Lyon will lead Bible study attendees in considering how each of these truths impacts our lives in tangible ways. For more information and to register, visit ForwardInChrist.net/online-study

Have you already registered? Unfortunately FIC experienced a technical glitch with their Zoom account and lost registration info through Jan. 12. If you registered early, you may have to do so again.

Gift from Thrivent Financial

We recently received a gift of \$735 from Thrivent Financial through their Thrivent Choice Program. Through this program owners of Thrivent products are able to direct some of Thrivent's charitable giving dollars to our organization. If you own a Thrivent product, check with you Thrivent representative to see whether it qualifies you to participate in Thrivent Choice. We thank Thrivent and their clients for this gift.



Donate to the Food Pantry

Since our last plea, just two Sundays ago, our church has assisted two more families with groceries. So most of the grocery donations we received are gone. Please consider donating, so we can continue this ministry. Any non-perishable items are welcome; if we receive too much we will pass items along to the local food pantry. Your donations can be placed in the marked bin located across from the mail slots.

Volunteer at 10:30 Services

Our Audio Visual Team is looking for volunteers (high school students or older) to help run slides during the 10:30 Sunday service. We hope have four people, so each person would only have to commit to one Sunday a month. The slides are run using a laptop using Microsoft PowerPoint, and the system is very easy to use. If we do not get volunteers, there is a possibility that some of the 10:30 services may not have PowerPoint slides. If you are interested, please contact Board of Worship Chairman, Chris Williams at worship@stpaulswr.org.

Built to Serve

Feb. 17

The 15th annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb. 17. The theme “Built to Serve” is based on Galatians 5:13. The keynote speaker is Pastor Michael Berg; Koine’ will be the worship band; and there are 14 challenging breakout sessions to choose from. Please go to www.menofhisword.org to register and get more details.

Jesus is the Same

March 1-3

The Pathways to Christ Women’s Retreat will be held March 1-3 in Oshkosh, WI. The retreat begins Friday evening and concludes on Sunday morning, but here are flexible attendance options. The retreat includes food, fellowship, speakers, worship and free time. Learn more at pathwaystochrist.org.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 22-28 School Book Fair
- Jan. 28 Call Meeting & Voters Meeting
- Feb. 4 WELS Youth Night
at Marathon City Sports
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday



It's School Spirit Week

(January 22-26)

Monday: Pajama Day

Tuesday: Historical Figure Day +
Anything-But-a-Water-Bottle Day

Wednesday: Dress as a Celebrity

Thursday: Dress like a Game

Character Day

Family Literacy Night

Friday: Green & White Day

HOME Basketball Game

(Parents Night)

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th
	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Connect Group at the home of Fred & Joyce Camacho
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Connect Group at the home of Carole & John Melso
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
	1:30 PM	Connect Group at Wisconsin Rapids Health Services
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice
	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
	6:00 PM	Family Literacy Night
Friday	5:00 PM	HOME Panthers Basketball Game in the gym
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for grades 3K-6th
	10:30 AM	Worship
	11:45 PM	Lunch in the cafeteria
	12:30 PM	Voters' Meeting in the cafeteria

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 218

Next Sunday

Theme: Epiphany Reveals Our Life with Christ:

Absolute Authority Is His

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Hebrews 3:1-6; Mark 1:21-28





www.stpaulswr.org

311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org