

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Epiphany Moments:  
Popularity Is Not Proof of Success  
*Fourth Sunday in Epiphany*

February 2, 2025



## 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



In 2009, Facebook added the "like" button. That same year, Twitter added the "retweet" feature. Interestingly, reported cases of depression began to rise sharply in 2010. It is easy to think that the more people like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success.

Though there will be times when Christ's gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church makes its central focus things like personal improvement, healing for the sick, or social justice, that church may draw a crowd. It just fails to carry out the true agenda Christ has given his Church. The gospel of forgiveness is to be the center of all our preaching and teaching. The agenda for Christ's Church is set. It's the same agenda that was followed by the Church's Christ.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 11 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek; Offering Music, Tammy Paul

## 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: Setting Three

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*Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.*

## Welcome

### Hymn

908 *Go Forth and Preach the Gospel*

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.



Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191



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.



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

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# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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

*Jeremiah 1:4–10*

*The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God’s Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.*

<sup>4</sup>The word of the LORD came to me.

<sup>5</sup>Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,  
and before you were born, I set you apart.  
I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.

<sup>6</sup>But I said, “Ah, LORD God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!”

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me: There! I have now placed my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms

to uproot and to tear down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

71A God Is My Strong Salvation

*Even amid unpopularity, we have nothing to fear with God by our side.*

*Refrain*



God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?

*Tone*



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;  
let me never be / put to shame.

**In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me;  
turn your ear to me and / save me.**

Be my rock of / refuge,  
to which I can / always go. *Refrain*

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me,  
and to this day I declare your / marv'lous deeds.

**Even when I am / old and gray,  
do not forsake / me, my God,**

till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,  
your mighty acts to all who / are to come.

**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

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

*A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.*

<sup>14</sup>As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them <sup>15</sup>and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.

<sup>1</sup>I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. <sup>4</sup>They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

<sup>5</sup>As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry. (EHV<sup>®</sup>)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:43



*Refrain*

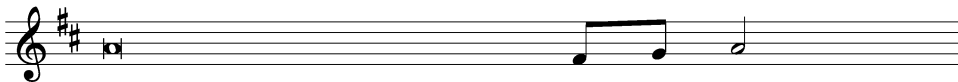


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Tone*



I must proclaim the good news of the king - dom of God,



because that is why I was sent.

*Refrain*

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## Gospel

Luke 4:38–44

*Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.*

<sup>38</sup>Jesus got up, left the synagogue, and went into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. They asked him to help her. <sup>39</sup>He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. <sup>40</sup>As the sun was setting, they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup>Demons also came out of many people, crying out, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup>When it was day, he went out to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. They went up to him and were trying to prevent him from leaving them. <sup>43</sup>But he told them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup>And he continued to preach in the synagogues in the land of the Jews.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day

*901 O Christians, Haste*

### Sermon

*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 Tara Winecki, who we called to serve as a primary grade teacher

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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

*Hear the Call of the Kingdom*

### Questions for Examination

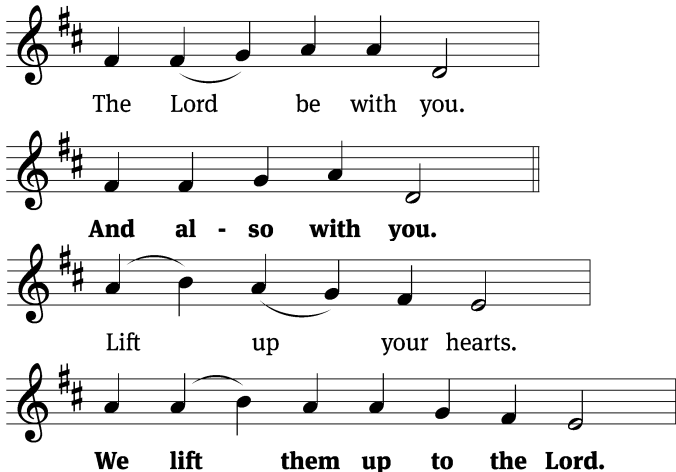
- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens 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 199

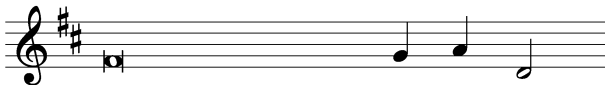


The Lord be with you.

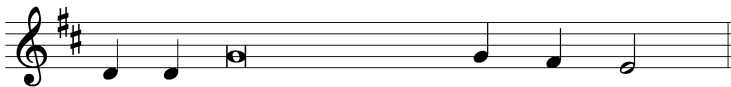
And al - so with you.

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

CW 200



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.

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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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.

CW 202

## Lamb of God



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 Hymn

899 Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King

*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.**

### **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  $\text{T}$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### **Hymn**

*874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior*



# Take Home Questions

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## Jeremiah 1:4-10

1. Jeremiah would have a very difficult ministry filled with persecution instead of popularity. What promises of God in these verses could he cling to in those difficult times?
2. What promises of God have been uplifting for you especially during times of difficulty or persecution in your life?

## 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

3. Verse 2 is a good summary statement for the work of a pastor, or more broadly, the work of a Christian congregation. In what ways do you see the things listed in this verse present in our congregation right now?
4. In what ways might we be able to commit ourselves to these things even more?
5. If we overvalue popularity, in what ways might we be tempted to do these things less or not at all?

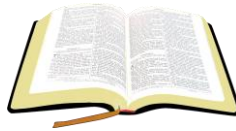
## Luke 4:38-44

6. What temptations would have been there for Jesus as he gained popularity in his ministry?
7. Yet, on what did he focus his entire ministry?
8. What can we learn from this focus of Jesus?



# News & Announcements

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## Family Bible Hour Returns This Sunday

9:15-10:15 AM

Take an extra hour on Sunday to grow in your faith. The whole family can participate. There is Sunday School for children in 3K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Those classrooms are at the intersection of the two school hallways. (Exit the east side of the Welcome Center and turn left.)

The rest of the family is invited to the Sunday Bible Study. There is usually time to grab a treat and a beverage before you head over to the cafeteria.

## Update Your Contact Information

Did you get a new phone or new email address in the last few years. If you haven't shared your updated contact information with us recently, please do so today. We like to have our new church directory as accurate as possible. Just fill out the Connect Card completely. If spouses have separate emails and phone numbers, please include both and indicate to whom they belong. Thank you.

## Photo Sessions Begin This Week

Feb. 6-12

Photo Sessions for our new church directory begin this Thursday, Feb. 6. We still have some time slots available. If you have not signed up yet, you can schedule an appointment by calling the church office, using the link on our website, or scanning the QR code on posters in the Welcome Center.

## Amazing Grace Campaign

Last Sunday, Mr. Van Weele announced our stewardship drive to raise \$125,000 in 125 days to pay down the principal on our mortgage. On the first day of the campaign we collected \$3,301, and many people took home offering envelopes. There are a special envelopes in the Welcome Center. You can place your offering for the mortgage in the special drop box, or use your normal means of making a donation. This should be an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving. The campaign continues through May 31, so you have time to plan your gift.



## Mission Offering Update



In the calendar year 2024, we sent Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) to the synod totaling \$36,630.26. This was 22% higher than our pledge of \$30,000. Our CMO is based on a percentage of the gifts we receive in our regular offering. With the addition of gifts given at the 2023 Advent by Candlelight, at the Ascension service, through the school chapel, and by individual members, our congregation's gifts to synod totaled \$38,208.49. All glory to God!

Through these gifts missionaries are able to proclaim the good news of Jesus, converting and strengthening souls in the saving faith. Young men and women are able to gather around Christ's gospel at our ministerial education schools and prepare to be our Lord's ambassadors. Congregational leaders, eager to help their members grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, are able use resources prepared by Congregational Services. Thank you for your gifts to our Savior for his work in 2024!

### Bible & Brews Starts on Thursday

*Feb. 6 | 6:00 pm*

Connect with God. Connect with others. Our Bible & Brews group will begin this Thursdays at 6:00 pm at B's Tap House (140 E Grand Ave). They are meeting for four weeks to discuss the take-home questions in the bulletin and enjoy a little fellowship. You can just drop in and look for Greg Paul, or contact Greg at 715-424-0449.

### Learn to Run the Sound Board

*Feb. 8 | 10:30 am*

The Technology Director from St. Peters in Weyauwega will be here this Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:30, to help us learn more about how to operate the sound board. We would like to have a minimum of five people who are trained to operate this equipment. If you are interested, please come to the balcony on Saturday.

### Can Your Group Serve a Fellowship Meal This Lent?

We have a late Lent this year, with Ash Wednesday on March 5. However, it is not too early for your group to consider serving one of the Lenten meals. The freewill offering from the meal can be directed to whatever ministry fund that you choose. There is a signup sheet on the Ministry Table. See Alan Verjinsky if you have any questions.

### Upcoming Events

- Feb. 6-12 Photo Sessions for New Directory
- Feb. 10 HOME Panthers Basketball Game
- Feb. 16 PK-K Singing in Church
- Feb. 18 School Open House
- Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday Service at 5:00 pm



Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
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
	6:30 PM	Rock Reset Meeting
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Compline Service</b>
	7:00 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	Bible & Brews at B's Tap House
Friday	5:00 PM	HOME Basketball Game
Saturday	10:30 AM	Sound Board Training
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 378

## Next Sunday

Theme: The Least Qualified Are the First Sent

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 10:12-17;

Luke 5:1-11

### LAST DAY TO SHOP!



School Book Fair  
In the Resource Center

Help improve and expand  
our school library.

You can also shop online at  
[https://155bookfairs.com/  
pages/WI046](https://155bookfairs.com/pages/WI046).



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