

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



EPIPHANY REVEALS OUR LIFE WITH CHRIST:  
He Undoes the Devil's Work  
*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

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

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February 4, 2024



## 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



Martin Luther once said, "Where God built a church, there the devil would also build a chapel." Satan and the other demons hate God. They demonstrate hatred by hurting those that God loves in any way they can. The epiphany Christ wants us to have is this: demons are real, they are plenteous, and they are dangerous. But Christ would also have us see that he is continually undoing the devil's work. More, through his Word, Christ Jesus gives us the power to resist the devil and stand firm in the faith.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 8 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Lucas Proeber; Accompanist Kristi Perry; Clarinets - Garth & Kristi Perry; Choir

## 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.

# The Service: Setting One

*Setting One begins on page 154 in the hymnal.*

## Welcome

### Hymn

850 *It Is Well with My Soul*

*Please join in verses 1, 3, and 4.*

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 154

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 Be to God on High

CW 157



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



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



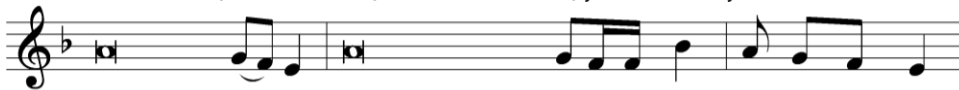
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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. Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; 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

*Isaiah 40:27–31*

*The LORD will renew our strength whenever the devil wears us down.*

<sup>27</sup>Why do you speak, O Jacob? O Israel, why do you say, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and justice for me is ignored by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the eternal God. He is the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired, and he will not become weary. No one can find a limit to his understanding. <sup>29</sup>He is the one who gives strength to the weak, and he increases the strength of those who lack power.

<sup>30</sup>Young men grow tired and become weary. Even strong men stumble and fall. <sup>31</sup>But those who wait for the Lord will receive new strength. They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles. They will run and not become weary. They will walk and not become tired. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

624 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

This hymn draws from a number of Psalms, including Psalm 103—the Psalm of the Day—to remind us of God’s ability to undo the devil’s work.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 5:6–11

*In the midst of suffering, God promises strength and deliverance.*

<sup>6</sup>Therefore humble yourselves under God’s powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.

<sup>10</sup>After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 40:31



Refrain



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

Those who hope in the LORD will re - / new their strength.

They will soar on wings like / eagles. **Refrain**

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## Gospel

Mark 1:29–39

*The devil loves to see people suffer, but Jesus lovingly and powerfully undoes the devil’s work.*

<sup>29</sup>They left the synagogue and went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup>Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed, sick with a fever. Without delay they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup>He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, when the sun had set, the people kept bringing to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup>The whole town gathered at the door.

<sup>34</sup> He healed many people who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus got up early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went out. He withdrew to a solitary place and was praying there. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and, when they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> He told them, “Let’s go somewhere else, to the neighboring villages, so that I can preach there too. In fact, that is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> Then he went throughout the whole region of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## **Children's Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*841 Entrust Your Fear and Doubting  
Please sing beginning with verse 3.*

### **Sermon**

**Trust through the Trouble**

*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

† We extended calls to Mrs. Michelle Korth to teach in the lower grades and to Mr. Micah Biesterfeld to teach middle grades and be Vice Principal.

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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

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

### 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, 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 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  $\text{T}$  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.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

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; 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*

### Distribution Hymn

706 *Come unto Me, Ye Weary*

*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.**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn**

924 *Abide, O Dearest Jesus* sts. 1, 5-6



## **February 14**

Worship Services

at 4:00 & 6:30 PM

Fellowship Meal

served 4:45-6:00 PM

# Take Home Questions

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1. One commentator on Isaiah 40 wrote, “God is utterly other than we.” Looking at the three readings and recalling the sermon, what are some ways we see that comparison?
  - a. Under what circumstances do we fall into “limiting” God or thinking something is out of his grasp?
  - b. What is the only solution to our misguided thinking?
2. Which actions by Jesus in Mark 1:29-39 show his greatest power over the devil—healing the sick, driving out demons, or something else?
3. It can be easy to attach specific timelines or outcomes to our troubles. For example, “God will heal me in three weeks.” Or “Once I’m out of this rut, life will be smooth sailing.” Look at 1 Peter 5:6-11 and find phrases that keep us from saying such things.
  - a. How long can “a little while” be in God’s eyes?
  - b. What makes the description of the Devil as a roaring lion so fitting?
4. The word for “receive new strength” in Isaiah 40:31 can refer to a change of clothes. Look up the following passages and discuss their connection to what it means to “receive new strength” from the Lord.
  - a. Colossians 3:8-12 –
  - b. Romans 13:13-14 –
  - c. Zechariah 3:1-4 –
  - d. Galatians 3:26-27 –

# News & Announcements

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**Sunday's Bible Study:  
Meeting the Ups & Downs of Life –  
When Our Children Marry**  
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

## Teachers Called

Last Sunday, we extended a call to Mrs. Michelle Korth to teach in the lower grades beginning next fall. Mrs. Korth is currently teaching our 3K class through the end of this school year. We also called Mr. Micah Biesterfeld to serve as a middle grade teacher and vice principal. Mr. Biesterfeld currently serves as principal at St. John's Lutheran School in Baraboo, WI. He and his wife have one child. Please keep both of these teachers in your prayers as they deliberate the calls set before them.

## Anniversary Planning Committee

Next January, our church will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Whether you are interested in history or know how to throw a party, we could use your help planning our celebration. Please contact with Fred Camacho (715-323-4566) or Seth Kroells (507-676-7142).

## Warm Up Your Home and Your Tummy

Enjoy a fresh from the oven apple pie or apple crisp. Heat up some yummy soup. We still have some of these frozen items from our Bake & Craft Sale as well as cranberry relish and apple sauce. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact the church office.

## Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Camp Phillip near Wautoma has summer camps for Pee Wees (K-2) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Older children can enjoy a camp with special focus like horseback riding or archery. All camps include games, songs, bible studies, and campfires. Learn more at [www.CampPhillip.com](http://www.CampPhillip.com). Register early to secure a spot!

## Donate Auction Items to NLHS

The Together We Shine fundraiser at Northland Lutheran High School is one month away. Please consider donating raffle items, baskets, gift cards, trips, or services for their silent auction. They will also hold a soup cook off. If you want to participate, please contact NLHS at 715-359-3400.

**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  
**5:00 PM**    **WELS Youth Night at Marathon City Sports Center**  
                  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    Unified Board Meetings

**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

**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

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 354

## Next Sunday

Theme: Epiphany Reveals Our Life with Christ:  
A Glimpse of His True Glory

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12a; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9





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