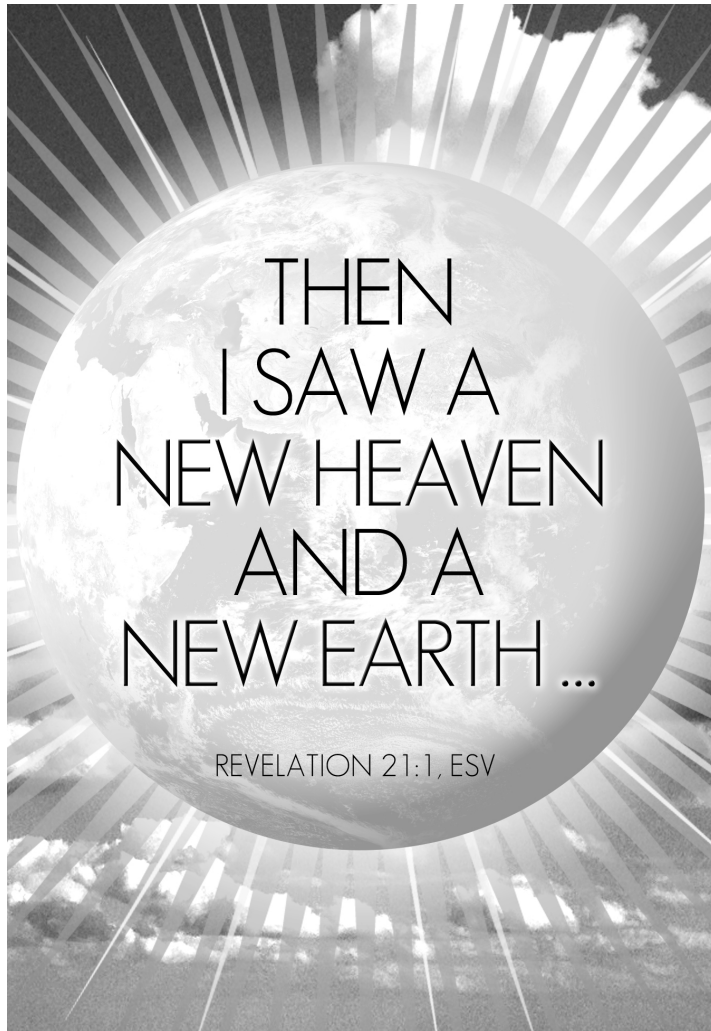


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



MYSTERY REVEALED:
REJOICE IN YOUR BRIDEGROOM!
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

February 7, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

If you are worshipping online, we would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us with any questions or prayer requests via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634).

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the Bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Your offering and connect card** can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you have a smartphone, you can fill out the online connect card. Empty offering plates will be brought forward and placed on the altar to symbolize our sacrifice to God.
- † **Children's bulletins** can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

It is very easy to become stuck in what's comfortable and what's natural throughout our lives. There usually isn't anything wrong with that approach. However, when we continually slip into the comfort and ease of what our old, sinful nature desires, issues abound. But this is why Jesus has revealed himself and promised to be our faithful Bridegroom—so that we would do away with our old ways and find joy in what he gives us by grace through faith.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green, a color of growth and life, highlighting the growth and strengthening of our faith when our God delivers us from dangers, troubles, and hardships.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 11 of this service folder.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2018 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission: www.wartburgproject.org

Divine Service II. Text: © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. Music: Stephen P. Stake and Dale Witte © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

728 "Jerusalem the Golden" Text, Tune & Setting: public domain.

¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the pulpit, and the altar.

DIVINE SERVICE II

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church intended to be used when Holy Communion is celebrated.

WELCOME

HYMN

*Alleluia! Let Praises Ring | CW 241
Verse 1-All; 2, Men; 3, Women; 4, All*

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and
of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): **Amen.**

*This hymn sets the tone
for our worship today; it
also sets the tone for our
entire lives as
Christians.*

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

sung to the tune in CW 89

♪ All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race. ♪

The Word

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Merciful Father, you have given your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of his redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in his way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Hosea 2:14-16,19,20

The LORD has pledged to be our Bridegroom forever.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Note all the reasons to rejoice God gives us in this Psalm alone!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 45 | CW p.83

Pastors will sing the verses. All sing the refrain and "Glory be to the Father."

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:1-6

The joy of being Christ's bride will last forever.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: I will rejoice greatly in the Lord. My soul will celebrate because of my God,

C: for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.

M: With a robe of righteousness he covered me, like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,

C: and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry. (*Isaiah 61:10*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Mark 2:18-22

When the Bridegroom is with us, we must rejoice.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

For the time being, please keep children with you in the pews for the Children's Message.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jerusalem the Golden | CW 728

Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-All



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There

know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -

there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The

bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in

end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
bring us To that dear land of rest Where
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The

midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

SERMON

Out with the Old! In with the New!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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 fully 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.

THANK OFFERING

Members of St. Paul's offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of glory, you delight in making yourself known to us and others. Bring us to ever recognize and rejoice in your majesty and your ministry. In love you chose to exercise your greatest strength to serve us in our greatest need.

C: **You revealed the brightness of your glory through humble deeds of love.**

M: You called ordinary men to do extraordinary things as your disciples and apostles. You also call us confidently to follow you, diligently to learn from you, and lovingly to imitate you.

C: **Equip and empower us to serve you and our neighbor faithfully. Use us as your witnesses to bring many throughout the world to the light of your gospel.**

M: You also revealed your glory through mighty signs and authoritative teachings. Assure us that you still rule all things in the universe and use them to serve our eternal good. In wise compassion you often exercise your power to help and heal people with physical and emotional needs. Give us courage and compassion to relieve the distress of the hurting, to pray for all according to their needs, and to be content and cheerful when in your wisdom you ask us to endure hardship.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Preserve your truth among us, and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven. Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom dignify our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our joy in all aspects of earthly life.

C: Hear us, Jesus, our Bridegroom and our Savior. Amen.

Please stand.

THE 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.

The Sacrament

PREFACE *(spoken)*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.



M: 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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him*. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

sung to the tune in CW 279

♪ **O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.** ♪

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: 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.

This is a historical part of the service leading up to the distribution and reception of the Lord's Supper which highlights the fact that Jesus "gave thanks" when he instituted this holy meal.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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 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 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

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 your peace. A - men.

Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

sung to the tune in CW 279

♪ **O Lord, now let your servant
depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
all gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
of those in Israel! ♪**

*Borrowing the words of Simeon
when he saw the Savior, we offer
this sung prayer to God after we
have seen him through his
precious sacrament.*

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Jerusalem, My Happy Home | CW 215

Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastors; 5-All



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does Jesus destroy the old and usher in the new with regard to...
 - a. our hearts?
 - b. our attitudes?
 - c. our hope?
2. Read through Revelation 21:1-6 again and make a list of things that will make heaven such a joy-filled place based on those verses. See if you can get ten things on your list.
3. Recall the background of Hosea's prophecy: God had Hosea marry a prostitute named Gomer to illustrate Israel's lack of faithfulness toward God. Yet, God speaks words of complete faithfulness to Israel in Hosea 2:19-20. What does that prophecy have to do with you?
4. We heard a lot about fasting in the Gospel reading today. With Lent coming up, some Christians might have a tradition of fasting or giving something up throughout those 40 days. First of all, what reasons have you heard for Christians doing so? Second, what are some pitfalls that could accompany fasting? Third, based on today's service, what is the proper approach to Christian fasting?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

The Theology of the Cross

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

For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

GET YOUR MARRIAGE IN SHAPE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is a yearly reminder to keep your marriage in good working order, so it will last the long haul. The synod's new "Marriage Maintenance" bible studies can help you do that. You will learn how to avoid breakdowns in love, communication, kindness, and patience. Each study is introduced with a short video followed by an activity. You can access the online content in the privacy of your own home and work through it as a couple at a time that is most convenient for you. (See the flyer in your mailslot on how to use these materials for a stay-at-home marriage retreat.) You can find the materials at welscongregationalservices.net/marriage-maintenance.

PRIVATE COMMUNION THIS WEEK

If you were unable to worship in-person this week, we invite you to schedule private communion with our pastoral staff. This is offered on Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 12:20 PM; Wednesday from 2:30 PM to 4:20 PM; and Thursday from 5:30 PM to 6:10 PM. You can choose whether to stay in your vehicle or come into the sanctuary. To sign up for an appointment, please follow the link in the Sunday Sneak Peek or call the church office by the end of the day on Monday, Feb. 8.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN FEB. 17

Wednesdays | 4:00 & 6:30 PM

We follow the centuries-long custom of taking extra time in Lent to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter through our midweek worship services. This year, along with our brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd, we will follow in the footsteps of Jesus in a special "The Places of the Passion" worship series. We will follow the same schedule we used for our midweek Advent worship, with services at 4:00 and 6:30 PM. If you do not attend in-person worship, the 4:00 service will be live-streamed and archived on our website and Facebook page. Please note that, for the sake of everyone's safety, we will again forego the midweek meals, with the hope of bringing them back for Advent 2021.

CALENDAR

February 7-14

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
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
	4:00 PM	Contemporary Choir in the balcony
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	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	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 155

From July 1, 2020 to January 29, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$579,921

Actual cost of ministry: \$611,963

Mortgage balance: \$1,305,818





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