

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Epiphany Moments:
The Least Qualified Are the First Sent
Fifth Sunday in Epiphany

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

February 9, 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

Imagine you need heart bypass surgery. When meeting with the surgeon, you ask, "How many of these have you done?" He responds, "You get the honor of being my very first patient!" You probably feel more anxious than honored. With important jobs, we understand it is crucial that the person doing that job is well-qualified.



There is no more important job than sharing the good news of salvation with others. So, you would expect Jesus would only give that job to those most qualified, like the angels. Nope. The least qualified are the first sent. In love, Jesus prepares and equips us to speak on his behalf. How? He draws unworthy sinners into his presence to provide us with the free gift of holiness that we lack. Once cleansed, we jump at the opportunity to be the ones through whom God does the same for others. Here is this week's epiphany moment. Let this be a crucial epiphany moment! You might think you are unqualified to share the gospel with those Christ brings into your sphere of influence. But the least qualified are the first sent.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Kristi Perry

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

743 I Hear the Savior Calling

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 189

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



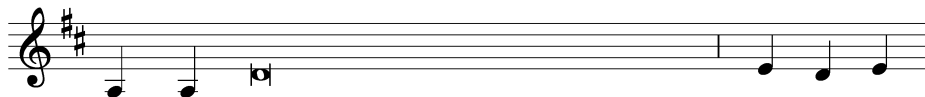
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.



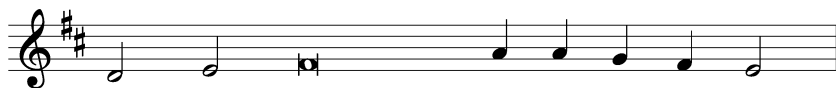
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men. A - men.

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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.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, you call and appoint us to proclaim the good news of your Son despite our sins and weaknesses. Purify us by your grace, remove our uncertainties, and work through us to fill the nets of your kingdom with those lost in the darkness of death; 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 6:1–8

Isaiah admitted he was sinfully unclean, unqualified to stand in God’s presence. The LORD not only takes Isaiah’s sin away but also sends Isaiah out as a messenger of grace.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. ³One called to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵Then I said, “I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷He touched my mouth with the coal and said, “Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.”

⁸Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”
Then I said, “Here I am. Send me!” (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

67D Let the People Praise You, O God

We praise the LORD and make his salvation known among all nations.

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.
May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth. *Refrain*

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.
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

Romans 10:12–17

God’s plan is to equip saved sinners like us to proclaim salvation to other sinners. St. Paul explains that God has no backup plan.

¹²So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³Yes, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!”

¹⁶But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who believed our message?” ¹⁷So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 71:15



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Luke 5:1–11

Jesus takes simple, self-admittedly sinful fishermen, seemingly unqualified for gospel ministry. He removes their fears, calls them to follow, and makes them fishers of men.

¹One time, while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. ²He saw two boats there along the lakeshore. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Jesus got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began teaching the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵Simon answered him, “Master, we worked hard all through the night and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets were about to tear apart. ⁷They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord.” ⁹For Peter and all those with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Have no fear. From now on you will be catching people.”

¹¹After they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Sermon

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Father, in Christ Jesus and through faith in him, we approach you with freedom and confidence.

Mercifully hear our prayer.

As you caused your light to shine that first Epiphany, shine in the darkness of our hearts. Drive far from us all our fears and all our doubts.

Give us a new confidence each day to live as children of the light.

Bless the work of your church here and throughout the world. By your Holy Spirit, make known far and wide the mystery of Christ Jesus. Give strength to all workers in your gospel ministry, and bless the Word they proclaim.

Bring those living in darkness into the light of life.

Remember missionaries and mission workers who bring the light of Christ to distant lands. Provide for their families and all their needs. Bless their work and continue to gather for yourself people from the four corners of the world to live as children of the light.

Renew our joy and give us new opportunities to make known the light of Christ.

Give guidance and wisdom and strength and health to our government officials. Direct their rule for our good as it is pleasing to you.

Give us hearts and lips that honor and respect those you have placed in authority over us.

Remember those who are ailing in body or mind. Guide all who attend to their needs. Comfort your children and all those who love them.

Assure them of your presence and your promise to be with them in all circumstances of life.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

These and all our needs are known to you, gracious Father. Mercifully hear our prayer. Guide us by the light of your Word until that day comes when you bring us home to yourself to join your people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, redeemed by the blood of Jesus. In his holy name we pray.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

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

† For Destinee Fiecko who holds a call to serve in Doral , FL

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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.



WELS Connection

Home Missions – Church Planter Intensive

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

716 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve (st. 1, 4)

Take Home Questions

Isaiah 6:1-8

1. How would you describe what Isaiah saw? How might you react if you were Isaiah?
2. In verse 5, Isaiah is filled with fear. In verse 8 he is eager to serve. What caused this change?
3. Reflect on the work that God has done in your life. In what ways does this impact your willingness to serve?

Romans 10:12-17

4. What “steps” happen before someone “calls on the name of the Lord [and is] saved?”
5. Where do you see each of those “steps” happening around us today?
6. In what ways are you a part of each “step?”

Luke 5:1-11

7. Why did Simon Peter tell Jesus to go away from him? Was Peter right in saying this?
8. What would have made it difficult for the disciples to carry out Jesus’ command in vs. 4?
9. Jesus shared the Word of God which was followed by a catch of fish. In what ways does this illustrate work in God’s kingdom?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: 1 Peter

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

What's Going on with the Welcome Center?

It's different every time you walk in. We are evaluating how the Welcome Center is being used to improve flow, to make it more visitor friendly, and to better promote our vital ministries. To this end, things will be changing for a while until we settle on a good layout. If you have skills that would help with this project, please contact Pastor Plagenz.

\$125,000 in 125 days!

Our Amazing Grace stewardship drive is off to a great start. In the first week, Jan. 26-Feb. 2, People have given \$19,551 to pay down the principal on our mortgage. Our goal is to raise \$125,000 in 125 days, which means we are already at 15% of our goal. Let's keep that momentum going. You can find special offering envelopes in the Welcome Center. Your gifts can go in the special drop box, or use your normal means of making a donation. (Note: This should be an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving.) The campaign continues through May 31.

Help with After School Care

We are seeking people to help with after school care from 3:30-4:30 pm on school days. This can be paid or volunteer. Help is needed five days a week, but if you can only help two or three days a week we may be able to work something out. Duties might include supervising kids in the gym, on the playground, or during quieter activities. Contact Mrs. Jane Petoskey for more information (616-534-5634).

Do You Miss Having Little Caesar Pizza?

Now you can have that flavor right in your home. Our school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is holding a Little Caesars fundraiser. You can purchase pizza kits, which include everything you need to make three Little Caesars pizza at home. The kits are frozen, so you can stock up, plus the school earns \$6 for each kit sold. Visit PizzaKit.com. You can browse options under the Products tab / View All. When you are ready to order, go to Shop (under the Products tab) and enter Fundraiser ID: 445647. If you prefer paper forms, you can add your order to the form on the Ministry Table. Orders are due by Feb. 17, with delivery expected in early March.



Co-ed Volleyball Begin Next Sunday

Feb. 16 | 2:00-5:00 pm

Get ready to bump, set, spike. Join in some rousing and friendly competition at Co-ed Volleyball starting next Sunday, Feb. 16, 2:00-5:00 pm. Bring a friend or bring your spouse. The group will meet every Sunday (except Easter) through early May.

One Last Chance

We still have timeslots available this week for you to have our picture taken for the church directory. Either call the church office or visit <https://book.usession.com/s/MotFamuJJ>- to get on the schedule.

See Our School

Feb. 18 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Do you have a friend that is not happy with their school? Maybe you have a child ready for preschool or kindergarten. Come and check out St. Paul's School at our open house on Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. If you are unable to make it to the open house, visit our school website to schedule a tour, stpaulsrapids.com.

Service Time Change Alert - Lenten Midweek Services Now at 5:00

This Lenten season we will try a new schedule for our midweek worship opportunity and fellowship meal. We will have one worship service at 5:00 with a meal to follow at 5:45 pm. With so many things vying for time and pulling groups apart, we hope this change will help us as a congregation come together as one family of believers at the foot of the cross. We will reevaluate this schedule after the Lenten season. If we find out this schedule doesn't work for one reason or another, we can always make a change for future midweek services. This change includes Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Update Your Contact Information

If you did not do so last week, please update your contact information with us. We would 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.

Upcoming Events

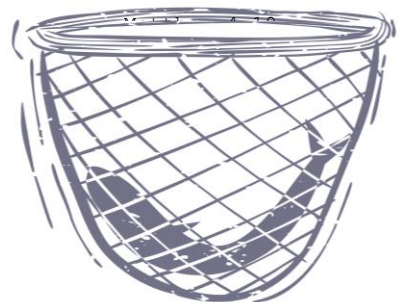
- Feb. 10-12 Photo Sessions for New Directory
- Feb. 18 School Open House
- Feb. 23 Hygiene Drive Begins
- Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday Service at 5:00 pm

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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
	4:30 PM	Panthers Basketball Home Game in the gym
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Sisters on a Mission in the Resource Center
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	Stephen Ministers in the Welcome Center
	6:30 PM	Unified Board Meetings
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
	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	Bible & Brews at B's Tap House
Saturday	8:30 AM	Foundations of the Christian Faith
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:30 pm	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym

I will make
you
fishers of men



Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 182

Next Sunday

Theme: Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed

Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8; 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10;

Luke 6:17-26



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