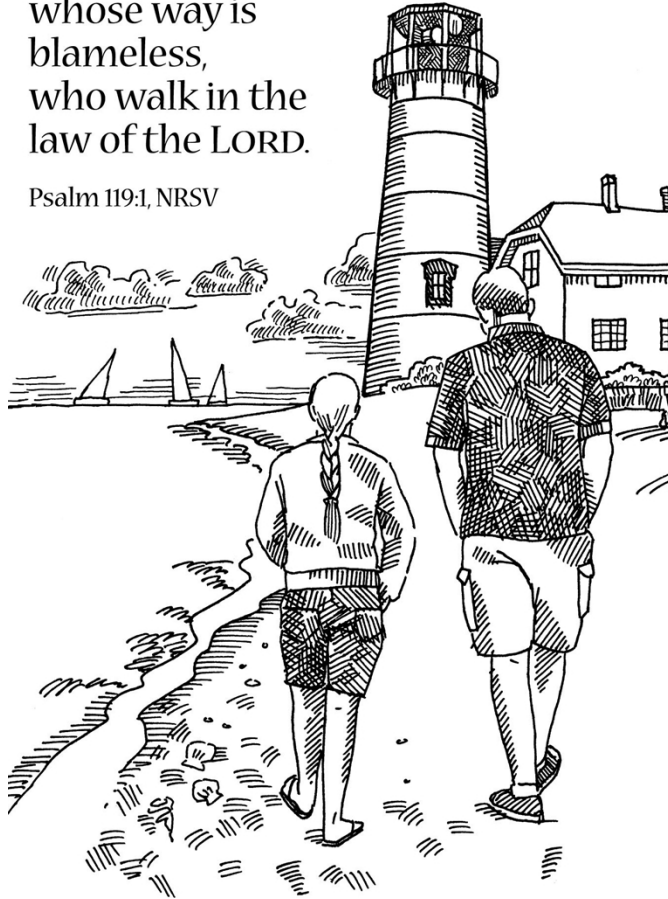


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Happy are those  
whose way is  
blameless,  
who walk in the  
law of the LORD.

Psalms 119:1, NRSV



The Savior's Sermon:  
Live a Holy Life

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 12, 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 Sunday



The word “holy” comes from an Old English word, “halig” which means “whole” or “healthy.” We have a holy God. He wants us to live a holy life, one that is wholly dedicated to him, one that is spiritually and emotionally healthy for us. So, as Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, he makes a crucial point that not all his followers (including present day followers) understand well. Jesus came to free us from sin. He did not come to free us to sin. God commands that we live a holy life. He provides dire warnings to remind us just how holy he wants us to be. Today we face a rapid decline in public morals and private piety. Yet, Jesus calls his followers to be different. He urges personal purity.

After examining our lives, we can only despair over our lack of holiness. So, the Gospel Acclamation reminds us to flee to Christ who loves us despite our failures and who sacrificed himself for unholy people. Secure in his grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each day we strive to live the holy lives to which we have been called.

## 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 of the hymnal.*

## Welcome

## Hymn

635 From High Atop the Mount vs. 1, 8, 9, 3

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 155

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*

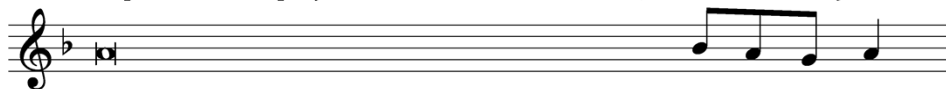
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy



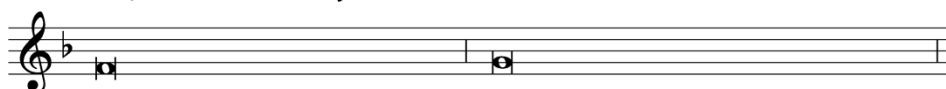
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



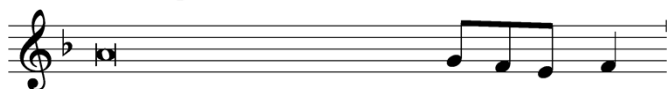
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**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.



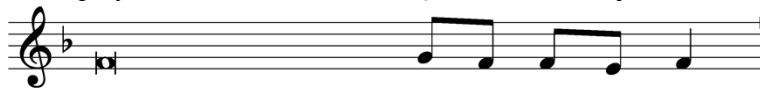
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

Tune: Kevin Becker Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Glory Be to God



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. Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; 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

2 Samuel 11:1–17, 26–27

*King David committed adultery, then murder, showing the danger of living in unrepentant sin; it is the exact opposite of a holy life.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

119G Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

*Refrain*



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

*Tone*



Oh, how I / love your law!

I meditate on it / all day long.

Your commands are always / with me  
and make me wiser than my / enemies.

I have more insight than all my / teachers,  
for I meditate on your / statutes. *Refrain*

I have kept my feet from every / evil path  
so that I might o- / bey your word.

How sweet are your words / to my taste,  
sweeter than honey / to my mouth!

I gain understanding from your / precepts;  
therefore I hate every / wrong path.

**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**

Tune: © 1993 Joyce Schubkegel, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903  
Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

*In living for Christ, we seek to control our bodies in a way that is holy.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 5:2

*Refrain*



*Pastor sings:*

Christ loved us and gave himself / up for us  
as a fragrant offering and sacri- / fice to God.

**Refrain**

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Gospel

Matthew 5:21–37

*Jesus calls us to live a holy life in our relationships with our brothers, our enemies, our bodies, our spouse, and our God.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## Children's Message

## Hymn of the Day

695 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

## Sermon

"You Have Heard...But I Tell You..."

*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*

### **Connect Card**

*Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**



Keep children in their baptismal grace. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.  
**Raise up Christians to serve in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide all who make, administer, and judge our laws.  
**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel. Care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.  
**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.  
**Amen.**

## **Offering**

*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**

### **Hymn**

*702 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*

*Stand*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.**

*Be seated*

## Hymn

*697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*



# Take Home Questions

---

1. Track David's sin in 2 Samuel 11. Where did it start? What kind of damage did it cause? How did the sin progress from one to the other? How might things have changed if David would have stopped and repented any earlier? Apply that to your life; when sin goes unchecked, what will likely happen?
2. In Matthew 5, Jesus highlights a number of things in Jewish culture that were problematic in God's eyes. In what ways is our current culture the same? Worse yet, in what ways are our hearts the same as what Jesus talks about?
3. These readings are all heavy—they come down on our sin hard, and rightly so. However, there is still encouragement, especially in 1 Thessalonians 4. Look at verses 1, 7, 9, and 10 specifically. What does Paul highlight about the Thessalonians that we could also say about ourselves?
4. If you or someone you know is struggling with their marriage, pre-marriage relationship, sexuality, or anything else that was talked about in today's readings—reach out. Don't let the issues grow; confess them and work on them. Pastors Proeber and Plagenz are both here to help you go to the cross of Christ for forgiveness and encouragement. Any counseling conversations are kept confidential among the pastors.

# News & Announcements

---



## **This Sunday's Bible Study: Discussing Transgenderism with Children**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM  
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

## **Teacher and Principal Called**

On Monday, our congregation called Mr. Ryan Jaeger to serve as our school principal and his wife, Mrs. Laura Jaeger, to serve as our 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. The Jaegers both currently serve St. John's Lutheran School in Two Rivers, WI. They have four children ages 8 to 16. Please keep the Jaegers in your prayers as they deliberate their calls. Contact information for the Jaegers can be found in your church mail slot.

## **Teachers' Conference This Week**

*Feb. 15-17*

The Western Wisconsin District Teachers Conference will take place at St. Paul's all day on Thursday and on Friday morning. More than 270 educators are expected. Help is needed for set up on Wednesday starting at 9:00 am. Take down is on Friday starting at 2:00 pm. Your help is appreciated.

## **Soap Matters**

Hygiene and cleaning supplies are technically just things, but to people in need it is tangible proof that people care about them, that they are worthy, and that they matter. For the next few weeks, FOCUS Food Pantry is collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning products for the pantry in conjunction with The Family Radio annual "Help for the Homeless" Hygiene Drive. Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) does not cover these items. The most needed items are laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, facial tissue, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, soft soap, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, lotion, Band-Aids, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, and denture care. (Please no mouthwash as it contains alcohol.) Please place your donations in the collection box in the Welcome Center by March 5. All donations will remain in this community.

## **Volleyball Begin Next Sunday**

Coed Volleyball gets underway next Sunday, Feb. 19. Come to the gym from 2:00-5:00 pm for some fun, fellowship, and a good workout.



## Lent Begins Feb. 22

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 22. One thing that is new this year is that our **second service will be held a half hour earlier at 6:00 pm**. The first service will remain at 4:00 pm, and we will still have a fellowship meal between the services. We will continue this pattern throughout Lent.

## Kindergarten Roundup

Feb. 25 | 10:00 AM

Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 am. If you know of any families that might be interested in our kindergarten program, please share their names with Mr. Melso so he can send them an invitation.

## Volunteers Still Needed For Crucial Roles



We are still looking for paid and/or volunteer help in our before- and after-school care. You only need to commit for one month at a time, for as little as one time slot a week, and you will be partnered with an experienced staff member. The days and hours are Monday-Friday 7:00-8:30 am; Monday & Thursday 3:15-4:30 pm; and Tuesday & Wednesday 3:15-4:15 pm. Please let Carole Melso or Kellie Jensen for more information at [littlelambs@stpaulswr.org](mailto:littlelambs@stpaulswr.org) or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.

We need volunteers to drive van to Northland Lutheran High School to transport our high school students. We already have some committed volunteers, but could use more to allow others to take breaks. You can drive mornings and/or evenings as often or as little as fits your schedule. You only need a good driving record and to pass a physical (which Northland will pay for). Please call NLHS Principal Ryan Wiechmann at 715-297-4427 if you can serve in this way.

## Two Opportunities to Hear About Mission Work Coming in June

The 60th Annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Convention will be held June 22- 25 in La Crosse. Hear from world and home missionaries, worship with hundreds of other Lutherans, explore LaCrosse, and enjoy music by Stephen Bautista. Learn more at [60.LWMS.org](http://60.LWMS.org).



The one-day, family-friendly mission event, Taste of Missions, will be held on June 10 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon. Enjoy a special worship service, see new home and world missionaries being commissioned, sample ethnic cuisine, enjoy fellowship and presentations from home and world missionaries, and participate in outdoor family-friendly activities. Learn more at [TasteofMissions.com](http://TasteofMissions.com)

## Camp Bird Registration Open

Registrations are now being accepted for Camp Bird for Lutherans, a youth camp for children currently in grades 5-8 (entering grades 6-9 in the fall). It is located on Sand Lake near Crivitz in Marinette County, WI. Swimming, canoeing, boating, hiking, challenge course, kickball, volleyball, archery, arts & crafts, campfires, Bible study, games, camp songs and many other activities are waiting for you this year! Three weeks are available in July: Sunday July 2 – Friday, July 7; Sunday July 9 – Friday, July 14; and Sunday July 16 – Friday, July 21. For more information or to download the registration form, please visit [www.campbird.org](http://www.campbird.org).



## Scrip for All Occasions

Going on vacation, going out to eat, or just going to the gas station, take scrip with you. When you make your purchases using scrip, you can help our school or earn tuition for your child. Scrip is available for over 750 brands including local businesses like Quality Foods, Danny K's, and Coffee Shop. To see a full list of brands visit [RaiseRight.com](http://RaiseRight.com). To learn more, talk to someone at the Scrip Table on Sunday, or check out our webpage, [stpaulswr.org/scrip](http://stpaulswr.org/scrip).

## Help with NLHS Fundraiser

The Northland Lutheran High School fundraiser, Together We Shine, is coming up on March 5. Please consider **donating something for the auction**: a unique item or craft goods, gift cards, tickets to some exciting destination, trips, or service vouchers. Be a part of the **Soup Cook-off**. Bring an electric roaster full of your best concoction! Submit your soup recipe for the Soup Cookbook that is being compiled. If you have questions on any of these opportunities, please call their office (715-359-3400) or email ([nlhsoffice@nlhs.org](mailto:nlhsoffice@nlhs.org)).

### Special Prayers This Week:

- Pastor Proeber received a call to serve at Salem Lutheran Church in Woodbury, MN
- Mr. Ryan Jaeger was called to serve as our principal and Mrs. Laura Jaeger was called to serve as our 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



- Sunday**      8:00 AM    Worship  
                   9:15 AM    Bible Study in the cafeteria  
                   9:15 AM    Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room  
                   9:15 AM    Sunday School for 3K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
                   10:30 AM    Worship
- Monday**      4:30 PM    Choir Practice in the balcony
- 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 Peer Group in the Resource Center
- Wednesday**    9:00 AM    **Conference Set Up**  
                   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  
                   1:00 pm    Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
- Friday**        2:00 pm    **Conference Take Down**
- 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    Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room  
                   9:15 AM    Sunday School for 3K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
                   10:30 AM    Worship  
                   2:00 pm    **Coed Volleyball in the gym**

## Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 262

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 568,468

Actual offerings YTD:        \$ 456,277

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 12 ~ Community Hygiene Drive Begins  
 Feb. 16-17 ~ Teachers' Conference at St. Paul's  
 Feb. 22 ~ Ash Wednesday  
 Feb. 25 ~ Kindergarten Roundup



### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 22  
 4:00 & 6:00 PM

Fellowship Meal  
 served 4:45-5:45 PM



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