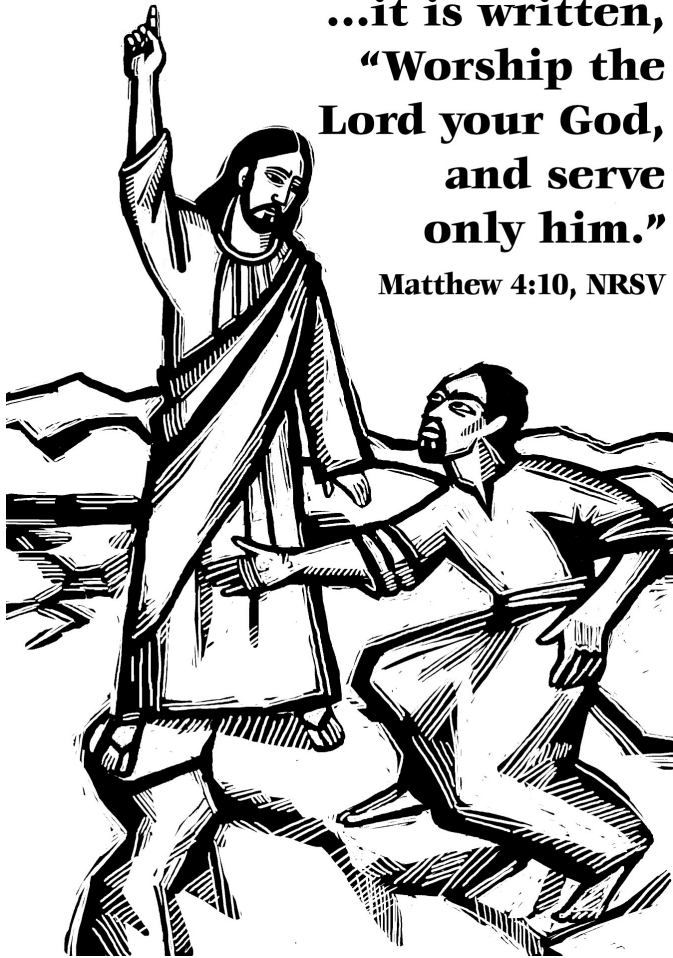


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**...it is written,
“Worship the
Lord your God,
and serve
only him.”**

Matthew 4:10, NRSV



**GOD PROVIDES
A CHAMPION FOR THE DEFEATED**

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 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 these things and answer any other questions.

New Worship Series: God Provides

What do you really need right now? To answer that question, one must first define what a "need" is. We understand that a "need" is greater than a "want." If you lack something you want, life goes on just fine. If you lack something you need, that presents a problem. Thus, to correctly answer that question, "What do you really need right now," ultimately one must understand their greatest problems.

Mankind's greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one's heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare.



Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also demonstrates that in Christ, God provides for all of our greatest needs. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season: If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

Service Notes For This Sunday



Our modern English word “champion” comes from an old English word that meant “warrior.” In ancient times, when two armies gathered to fight, sometimes as a prelude to the battle—and sometimes in place of the battle—each army would pick a mighty soldier, and these two men would fight each other. These elite warriors, these champions, would represent their people in battle. They would meet in the middle of the field. With everyone watching, they would fight to the death.

Today we are reminded of an ancient war that began in Eden. The perfect peace and prosperity of Paradise was lost when a fallen angel convinced mankind to follow the demons in rebelling against their Creator. When Adam fell, he condemned the world to darkness and death. The enemy of God claimed that the children of men now belonged to him. God was having none of it. He promised he would send forth his champion, his Son. And so, today we see a battle of champions. The demons send forth their strongest warrior—Satan. God sends forth the best of men, Jesus Christ. Jesus does what Adam and we could not. In crushing the devil, Jesus meets one of our greatest needs.

Special Prayers This Week:

- For Mr. Ryan Jaeger, who was called to serve as our principal, and for Mrs. Laura Jaeger, who was called to serve as our 1st -2nd grade teacher.

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The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

556 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

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

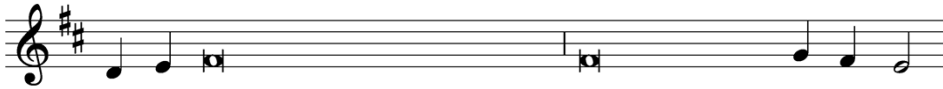
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter). The lyrics are: 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.



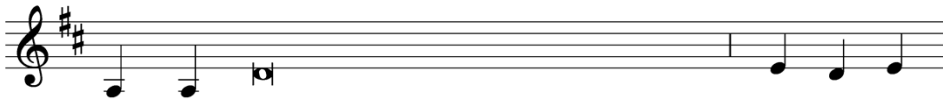
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



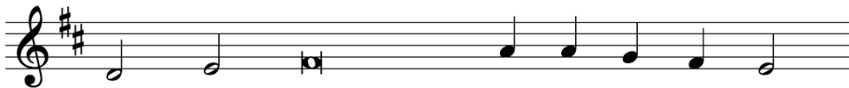
Lord, have mer - cy.



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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During the somber season of Lent, the Gloria and Alleluias are omitted. While our tones of praise are slightly muted during our march to the Savior's cross, we look forward to welcoming back these joyful songs when we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. The service continues with The Word.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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

Genesis 3:1–15

God promises to provide a champion to do what we could never do: defeat our greatest enemy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us

Refrain



The LORD Al - might - y is



with us; the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Tone



God is our ref- / uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,
though its waters / roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their / surging. Refrain**

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God,
the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

**God is within her, she / will not fall;
God will help her at / break of day.**

“Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth.”

**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 5:12–19

Adam’s defeat meant death for all; Christ’s victory brings life for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:15



Refrain



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Pastor sings:

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our / weaknesses;
we have one who have been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he / did not sin.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

Our champion is victorious over the temptations of Satan.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

863 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Sermon

What Reigns in Your Life?

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

Gracious Father, after his baptism your Son faced the stern attacks of Satan who tried to derail his journey to the cross. On this day we rejoice in Jesus' victory in the wilderness and praise him for his ultimate triumph over the works of the devil.

Send us your Spirit that we may believe this truth and apply it in our lives.

Satan and his followers seek to overturn our faith and love every day. Their goal is to separate us from your presence and destroy our relationship with your Son. Give us wisdom to be alert for their attacks and recognize the danger they bring.

Protect us as we endure temptation. Keep us from becoming Satan's victims. Forgive us and restore us when we give in to him.

According to your will, Lord, curb the influence of Satan in our world and society. Help people to grasp the effects of his power and to refrain from doing wicked and harmful deeds.

Come to the aid of those who are the objects of devilish power.

Give us courage to warn others about the dangers of the devil's temptations. Lead us to speak the truth in love so that our families and friends may discern evil and step back from error.

Move us to share the horror of Satan's power honestly and to offer your pardon freely.

Keep in your care all who are struggling with pain, battling with sickness, and facing death. Spare your people from Satan's temptations in their difficult hours and strengthen them with the promise of your Son's ultimate victory over sin, death, and the grave.

Help us to support them when we can and to keep them in our prayers.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Protect us, gracious God, from the power of Satan, the allure of the world, and the seduction of our sinful nature.

Cause us to believe that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.



Musical Offering

Hymn

574 *The Tree of Life*

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.

Hymn

842 *Jesus, Still Lead On*



Take Home Questions

1. Some people might claim that it is unfair for all of mankind to be declared guilty and cast into sin because of Adam: “I wasn’t there! I can’t be guilty for something I didn’t do!” How would you respond to them?
2. The devil is the father of lies; he wants nothing more than for people to turn away from the truth of God and his promises. In Genesis 3:5, describe how his words, though spoken as a lie, sadly came true.
3. Think of three personal temptations that are similar to those that the devil put in front of Jesus in Matthew 4. As a help, the first could be a temptation pertaining to physical needs; the second would be about doubting God’s will; the third about relying on things other than God. In what ways do you see these things come up in your life? Be specific. How are you able to use God’s Word to combat those temptations? Again, be specific.
4. What makes “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” a perfect Hymn of the Day for this Sunday? Read through the text of the hymn and find as many connections to the three Scripture readings as you can.

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Standing Up for the Truth

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

Volunteer for Easter for Kids

Easter for Kids is one month away, on Saturday, March 25. We will need lots of volunteers in many areas - lesson, games, crafts, music, food, registration, and more. Descriptions of each position can be found on the Ministry Table and the SignUp Genius. You can also sign up in either of those spots. (To access SignUp Genius, go to stpaulswr.org/easter-for-kids and look for volunteer link near the bottom for the page.)

All materials, ideas, and funds are provided to help you with this ministry. Want to learn more? There is a planning meeting this Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 pm. We hope you will help us share the Good News of Easter with children.

Easter for Kids Registration Open

Eggs, bunnies, and ham are fine, but don't you want to your children to know that there is more to the Easter holiday? Let them learn about Jesus resurrection in a fun and active way. At Easter for Kids, they will sing, make a craft, play games, and make a snack in addition to hearing a Bible lesson. The event is Saturday, March 25 ~ 9:00-11:45 am. Babysitting is available for younger children, and the whole family is invited to stay for lunch afterwards. Register at the Ministry Table or at stpaulswr.org/easter-for-kids.

Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter!

Make Projects
Make & eat snacks
Play Games
Sing songs

EASTER for Kids

Register at stpaulswr.org

March 25, 2023
9:00 TO 11:45 am
Lunch to follow
St Paul's Lutheran Church 311 14th Ave S
(across from Splash Pad)

Ages 3-10
Babysitting provided

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Help at the Food Pantry

Mar. 13-17

Our congregation will be serving at the local FOCUS food pantry March 13-17. Volunteers are needed from 11:45 am to 4:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday and from 3:45-7:00 pm on Tuesday. If you can help, please contact Judy Anderson (sjanderson@charter.net or 715-423-5922) by Feb. 28.

If you want to help, but this opportunity doesn't fit your schedule, you can always donate to the food pantry. The most needed items right now are jelly, dry pasta, crackers, pasta mixes, canned soup, and oatmeal. We have a collection in across from the mailboxes.



Family Fun Night

March 10 | 5:30-8:30

PM

Our entire church and school family is invited to Family Fun Night on Friday, March 10. Enjoy board games, cards, open gym time, or just chatting with friends. Pizza will be served, but you are welcome to bring snacks to share. You can also be one of the first to browse the NPH bookfair. Hope you will

come!

Hygiene Drive Ends Next Sunday

The area-wide "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive" wraps up next Sunday, March 5. Your donations of personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies are appreciated and will stay in our community. Right now, the local FOCUS food pantry especially needs toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo, and laundry soap, but other items are welcome. You can place your donations in the collection bin in the Welcome Center.

There is Something for Everyone

The Northwestern Publishing House Book Fair is coming to St. Paul's beginning March 10. Browse best-selling items and new releases. You can page through the physical books before buying, plus save 20% over the online price. Be one of the first to browse the book fair during Family Fun Night on March 10 from 5:30-8:30 pm.



NLHS Concert Rescheduled

March 10 | 7:00 PM

Northland Lutheran High School has rescheduled their Lent/Easter Concert to Friday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. The concert will not only include NLHS's choir and band, but also five students for St. Paul's Grade School. The concert will be held in the NLHS in Kronenwetter. Come support the kids as they share their musical talents.



Together We Shine Next Sunday

March 5 | 12:00-3:00 PM

Northland Lutheran High School's annual fundraising event, Together We Shine, will take place next Sunday, March 5. Help them celebrate all the blessings God has showered on our high school. Festivities begin at noon. The day includes a **silent auction, soup cook-off, and a kid's corner**. You can bid on unique items, craft goods, gift cards, gift baskets, and more. Vote on which soups should win the Golden Ladle, Silver Ladle, and Bronze Ladle awards. Purchase a cookbook of soup recipes including many Ladle winners. Buy a "Local Deals Coupon Book." All proceeds will help NLHS train our future Christian leaders.

Does Your Employer Match?

Our school recently received a check from the Sentry Foundation as a match to one of their employee's donations to our school. Does your employer match donations to charity? Contact your human resources department to find out. We will gladly provide any paperwork necessary to enable you to use this benefit. Thank you to our members who take advantage of matching funds, and thank you to Sentry for their gift.

Handbell Festival in Watertown

March 11-12

St. Paul's is sending two handbell choirs to the WELS National Handbell Festival – our adult group, The Joyful Ringer, and a children's group made up of 5th-8th graders from our school. The Festival will be held at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on March 11-12. After practice and fellowship on Saturday, the mass choirs will present a festival concert on Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 pm. If you are able to make the trip to Watertown, it will be an experience to remember.



Upcoming Events

- Mar. 10 ~ Family Fun Night / NPH Book Fair
- Mar. 10 ~ Lent/Easter Concert at NLHS
- Mar. 11 ~ National Handbell Festival in Watertown, WI
- Mar. 13-17 ~ St. Paul's Serving at Food Pantry
- Mar. 25 ~ Easter for Kids

Calendar

February 26- March 5

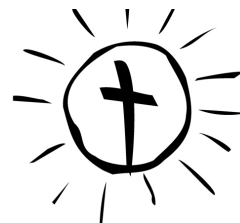
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School for 3K thru 6 th grade
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Coed Volleyball in the gym
Monday	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	4:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	4:45 PM	Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria
	6:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:30 PM	Easter for Kids Meeting in the cafeteria
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 th grade
	10:30 AM	Worship
	12:00 PM	Together We Shine at NLHS
	2:00 PM	Coed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 221

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 603,997

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 476,129





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