

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

"BEHOLD,
YOUR KING
IS COMING TO YOU ... "

MATTHEW 21:5, ESV



Come, Lord Jesus!
As King

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022

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



Why would the Church Year begin with a gospel reading that describes an event near the very end of Jesus' life—his entry into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week? Because the events of Palm Sunday serve as a perfect summary of the entire plan of salvation. It is an odd sight, this man riding into Jerusalem on a baby donkey, to cheers and the celebratory waving of palm branches.

Understandably, many asked, "Who is this?" The answer: This is not just a rabbi. This is the King of all Creation. This is God Almighty wrapped in flesh. Yet, he does not enter Jerusalem with all his glory and power on display. The King hides all that and rides into Jerusalem so that he might also be our priest and sacrifice. This is a King unlike any other ruler who has ever lived. For he is infinitely greater than all other kings, while simultaneously being infinitely humbler. This King is willing to trade his golden crown for one made of thorns. This King comes not demanding our service but to serve us. You look at how good, how loving is this King, and you ask that question upon which eternity hinges. "Who is this?" As we march through this new Church Year, the answer becomes crystal clear. This King is the Savior of the nations.

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting One

Setting One begins on page 154 in the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

*Even So, Come
Please join on the refrain.*

All of creation, all of the earth,
make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.

Refrain:

Like a bride wait - ing for her groom, we'll be a church

— read - y for You. Ev - ry heart long - ing for our King. We sing: E - ven so,

— come, Lord Je - sus, come. E - ven so — come, Lord Je - sus come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, Faithful and True.
Jesus is coming soon.

Refrain

So, we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait, You're coming soon.
So, we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait, You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom.
we'll be a church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King. We sing:

Refrain

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the 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.

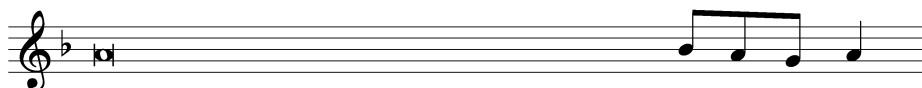
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.**



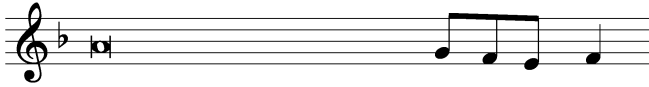
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



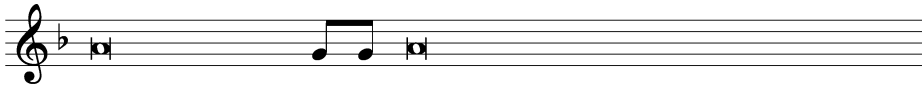
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



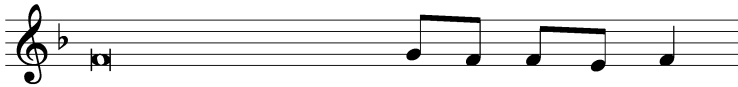
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory Be to God

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. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

When our King comes again, he will transform this world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

24B Welcome the King

Please join as you feel comfortable.

Refrain



Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!



He is the LORD Al - mighty, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

Verses



- 1 See, all the earth is God's, its peo - ple and na - tions;
- 2 Who can go up this moun - tain, who stand in prais - ing?
- 3 They shall re - ceive for - give - ness, and have God's bless - ing
- 4 Come, lift your voic - es high, be lift - ed to glo - ry;

Refrain (sung after each verse)



God built it on the deeps and laid its foun - da - tions.
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands up - rais - ing.
if they will search for God, their Sav - ior con - fess - ing.
the LORD our God ap - proach - es, come, shout the sto - ry.

- 5 Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty LORD, our God celebrating. (Refrain)
- 6 Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power. (Refrain)
- 7 Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, this LORD of hosts, the vict'ry is bringing. (Refrain)

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Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Our life is changed from worry to joy because of the King who has come and is coming again.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

in place of the Gospel Acclamation

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who humbly entered this world and humbly rode into Jerusalem.

We remember Jesus, who will come again in triumph at the end of time.

He comes near to us today through his Word.

We light one Advent candle as a symbol of our faith, which the gospel feeds.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

The King of all creation comes to us in total humility.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

301 Savior of the Nations, Come

Sermon

Let's Climb the Mountain of the Lord

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.

8:00 - Reception of New Member - Jace Wipfli

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and to long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn

305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

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.

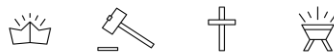
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

Amen.

Hymn

309 The Advent of Our King



Come, Lord Jesus!

Take Home Questions

1. Jesus comes as a humble King, as the scene from Matthew 21 reminds us. Looking at the other readings for today, note the ways in which Christ's followers are called to emulate that humility. What would that look like in our current culture?
2. There are some who say that Isaiah's imagery of weaponry being transformed into gentler implements tells us that there will be world peace one day. Compare that thought with Matthew 24:3-12. What, then, is meant by that transformational imagery?
3. Isaiah says that the mountain of the LORD will be the "chief of the mountains," meaning it will be the most impressive. Discuss/ponder what point Isaiah is making with that phrase and its implications for our lives today.
4. The crowds in Jerusalem were partially correct with their assessment of Jesus in Matthew 21:11. That might not seem like a big deal. However, what important aspects of Jesus' life and ministry do people forget by only seeing Jesus as a prophet?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Facing Your Own Death

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

Advent Devotions Available

Discover how the Gospels of John and Luke record the details of God becoming man. Martin Luther College has put together a series of 25 devotions titled *Word Made Flesh: The Historical Reality of Christmas*. Each devotion is prompted by a question about the historical accuracy of the Christmas account and each reminds us that Christmas is not a sweet children's story or fairy tale. It is a historical event. These devotions will remind you that we need more than just a spiritual idea or inspiring story. We need a real flesh-and-blood Savior. A booklet of the devotions is available in the Welcome Center. You can also have them delivered to your email on a daily basis (Dec. 1-25) by visiting mlc-edu/publications/seasonal-devotions.

Midweek Advent Services Start Wednesday

Nov. 30

Our first midweek Advent services will be held next Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 4:00 & 6:30 pm. We will touch on three promises that God made in the Old Testament and how Jesus coming in the flesh fulfills each one. There will also be fellowship meals served from about 4:45 to 6:15 on each of those Wednesdays. The first meal will be served by St. Paul's Youth, and the freewill offering will help support the youth group.

Anticipating His Presence

Dec. 4 | 6:00 PM

Advent by Candlelight is next Sunday. Sign up today to reserve a seat. The program will remind you of Jesus presence and also his presents for you. Enjoy an elegant evening of God's Word, music, dessert and conversation. You are welcome to invite friends. You can sign up at the Ministry Table or by calling Marilyn Sigler at 715-213-0054.

Deliver "Fruit Baskets"

Dec. 17

We will be delivering gifts of fruit and other goodies to our shut-in/homebound members as well as some recent widows. Volunteers are need to make deliveries. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to do ministry together as older people usually love to see children. If you are willing to help, please contact Hilde Henkel at 715-435-3547.

Kid-Free Time for Christmas Prep

Dec. 10 | 9:00 AM

It can be hard to keep Christmas gifts a secret when the kids are always around. You can have a couple of hours kid-free on Saturday, Dec. 10. Just drop off your children at Christmas for Kids from 9:00-11:45 am. They will enjoy games and music, make a snack and a project, and hear about their Savior's birth. We will even take care of lunch afterwards for both you and the kids, so you have one less thing to worry about. The event is for ages 3-10, but babysitting is available for younger ones. Invite your friends to take part, too! Registration forms can be found on the Ministry Table or you can register online form at stpaulswr.org.



Give to the Food Pantry

Volunteers from our congregation are serving at the local food pantry this week, so it is a great time to make a donation. Any donation is welcome. However, the biggest needs right now are jelly, dry pasta, crackers, pasta mixes, canned soup, and oatmeal. You can take your donations directly to the FOCUS/SWEPS Food Pantry (2321 West Grand Ave) or bring them to church. Our donation bin is located across from the mailslots.

Apple Crisp still available

Willing Workers still have many frozen apple crisp. Buy one to keep in your freezer for unexpected guest or as a last minute addition to a meal. Baking instructions are included. You can pick one up from the church office during the week, or look for a Willing Worker on Sunday. The cost is \$10, which will go to reduce the principal on the mortgage.

WELS Night at the Bucks Ticket Deadline

Nov. 28

Enjoy the WELS Night at Fiserv Forum as the Milwaukee Bucks take on the Minnesota Timberwolves on Friday, Dec. 30 at 7:00 PM. Ticket prices range from \$45-\$125 depending on your seating choice. Order at FEVO.ME/WELS2002 using promo code WELS. The order deadline is Nov. 28. (This might make a good gift for the sports lover in your life.)

For Young Christian Adults

Jan. 13-15

If you are between the ages of 18-28, there conference is specifically built for this season of life. It doesn't matter if you are a college student, young professional, in the military or reserves, working a job, in the trade, married, single or living at home. Enjoy Christian community, interviews, discussions, devotions and breakout topics. The event costs only \$65 and takes place at the Mayo Clinic in Event Center in Mankato, MN. Visit AwakeAndAlive.com to find out about speakers, entertainment, meals, lodging, and how to register.

Upcoming Christmas Concerts

Martin Luther College Christmas Concert

Because part of the mission at Martin Luther College is to prepare future choir directors, band directors, classroom music teachers, organists, and parish music coordinators, you know that their Christmas Concert is going to be great. This year's concert will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday Dec. 4 at 4:00 pm in New Ulm, MN. The concert will be livestreamed and archive for later viewing at [mlc-wels.edu/streams](https://shop.mlc-wels.edu/collections/digital-downloads). Some of their past concert are available for digital download at <https://shop.mlc-wels.edu/collections/digital-downloads>.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

The seminary chorus, a 68 voice all-male choir, will present their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3:00 and 7:00 pm in Mequon, WI. The 3:00 pm concert will be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing at livestream.com/WLSLive. The seminary also has a "Christmas at the Seminary" playlist on Youtube under the channel *The Seminary Chorus – Topic*.

Luther Preparatory School

Luther Prep is also holding their concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3:00 pm in Watertown, WI. Their concert will be streamed on Vimeo. This one is a little harder to locate. The fastest way probably is to go to LPS old livestream site, livestream.com/lps, where you will find a link to Vimeo.

Northland Lutheran High School

Northland's Christmas concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:00 pm in Kronenwetter, WI. You will spot a few St. Paul's members in the band and choir as they share music focused around the theme "Immanuel: God with Us." This is an in-person only event, but close enough that you can drive and take a friend.



Special Prayers This Week:

- Darlene Reynolds passed away.
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- Sunday** 8:00 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th 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 in the Resource Center
- Wednesday** 8:55 AM School Chapel Service
 4:00 PM **Midweek Advent Worship**
 4:45 PM **Fellowship Meal**
 6:30 PM **Midweek Advent Worship**
- 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 Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th grade
 10:30 AM Worship
 6:00 PM **Advent by Candlelight**

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week’s Attendance: 215

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 373,057

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 268,110

Upcoming events

Dec. 10 ~ Christmas for Kids

Dec. 17 ~ “Fruit Basket” Delivery

 Preschool Christmas Program

 School Christmas Service

Dec. 18 ~ Christmas Concert at NLHS

Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship at 6:30 pm

Dec. 25 ~ Christmas Day/Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Dec. 31 ~ New Year’s Eve Service at 6:30 pm

Jan. 1 ~ Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

Promises Kept

Midweek Advent Services



Wednesdays
 Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14
 4:00 & 6:30 pm

Supper Served



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