

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



SON OF MARY, SON OF DAVID, SON OF GOD
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

December 20, 2020

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



Jesus is the Son of Mary, Son of David, and Son of God. This might be confusing to some, but God is clear what he means when he refers to his Son in this way: Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy and the hope of all mankind; Jesus is the love of God in the flesh; Jesus is true human and true God in one being; Jesus is the Savior of the world. Come, O Savior, and take your place in my heart today and always.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is blue, which recalls the color of the sky, from which our Lord will come again.

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.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

DIVINE SERVICE II

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

WELCOME

HYMN

*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | CW 76
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastors; 5-All*

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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

Congregation (C): **Amen.**

*These words, along with
the sign of the cross,
serve as ways to help
Christians remember
their baptism.*

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 38

♪ 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.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, 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

2 Samuel 7:8-16

A Son of David will reign forever.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 89 | CW p.98

All sing the refrain; Pastors sing the verses.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

The veiled Son has been revealed and proclaimed.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit our souls be blessed.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL - Luke 1:26-38

The Son of God will be born of a virgin.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | CW 23

All sing the refrain; Verse 1-Pastors; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All

SERMON

From Rags to Riches by Grace

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

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

Remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** *O Wisdom, breath of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation:*
- C: Come and make us friends of God.**
- M:** *Help us to hear again during this season the precious promises of your coming that we may find joy in the celebration of your holy birth, confidence as your Word works in our hearts, and hope as we long for you to come again in glory.*
- C: Amen.**

Today's Prayer of the Church is based on the "O Antiphons," seven prophetic titles of the Messiah found in the book of Isaiah. The basic progression of themes can be understood this way: The framer of the universe (Wisdom) who gave the Law (Lord) promised through David's throne (Root of Jesse) to set free the captives of sin (Key of David) and bring the Light of salvation to dawn (Dayspring or Radiant Dawn) not only on His chosen people but all nations (King of the nations) and dwell with us as one of us eternally (Emmanuel).

M: *O Lord* of lords and leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:

C: Come and save us with outstretched arms.

M: Give us power every day to battle against Satan, our sinful nature, and the evil around us so that our hearts may find rest in you alone.

C: Amen.

M: *O Root of Jesse*, standing as a signal to the nations, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will bow:

C: Come and save us; delay no longer.

M: Guide those you permit to govern the nations of the world. Lead all of humankind to acknowledge your divine power in this created world that many might seek you and find your love in the gospel.

C: Amen.

M: *O Key of David* and Ruler of the house of Israel, when you open, none can close, when you close, no one can open.

C: Come and proclaim liberty to the captives and set the down-trodden free.

M: Help us witness to family and friends who are struggling under the weight of sin because they do not know your love. Let our words comfort those who are grieving, afraid, confused, and burdened by an accusing conscience.

C: Amen.

M: *O radiant Dawn*, splendor of eternal light and Sun of righteousness:

C: Come and give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

M: Watch over those who are sick in body or mind, heal those who have been injured, relieve the pain of those with terminal illnesses, and give medical personnel and caregivers strength and patience in their ministry of mercy.

C: Amen.

M: *O King of the nations*, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone binding all together:

C: Come and save the people you fashioned from the dust of the earth.

M: Bring peace to our troubled world, restore unity in families that have been broken by sin and strife, and lead us to be faithful friends and loving family members.

C: Amen.

M: *O Emmanuel*, our King and Lord, the Anointed of the nations and their Savior:

C: Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

M: Lead us to acknowledge that we are sinners in your sight and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

C: Amen.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray as you have taught us:

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 comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again.* 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 7

♪ **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.** ♪

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 7

- ♪ **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! ♪**

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

*Let All Together Praise Our God | CW 41
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-All; 4-Women; 5-Men; 6-All*

This hymn recounts the work of Jesus, but it also draws on some of the specific themes we heard from the readings and prayers today. Can you spot them?

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. As we read in 2 Samuel 7 about someone reigning on the throne of David, we might first think of Solomon, David's son and the next one in the kingly line. However, God is here reaffirming his promise to send a Messiah. In what ways do you see Jesus in these verses?
2. 2 Samuel 7 contains a magnificent promise God made to David, that his house would endure forever. In verse 29 of that chapter David responds to God in prayer by asking him to keep his promise and do what he has said. In what ways can you imitate this in your life as a Christian? Challenge: as you pray this week, echo a different promise of God each day.
3. Luke 1:26-38 predicts what we confess in the Apostles' Creed, that Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit." Because of this event, Jesus is both 100% true God and 100% true man, a teaching that is paramount to our faith. Why is it so important that Jesus is true God? Why is it so important that Jesus is true man?
4. The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary is reminiscent of his visit to Zechariah, yet these accounts have very different outcomes. Mary is commended while Zechariah is scolded and made mute. What do you see in their reactions to Gabriel's message that would warrant such different outcomes?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

The Judgment

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

LEARN THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Jan. 7 | 6:30PM

Start the new year with our new Bible information class. Pastor Plagenz will walk you through Foundations of the Christian Faith, a course comprised of work from numerous pastors in our synod. The twelve lessons cover the basics of Christianity and what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. Whether you've been at St. Paul's for weeks or decades, this course will teach you something new. Come to be refreshed with the core teachings of the Bible and to expand your knowledge. Better yet, invite a friend to come study with you.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Our staff is taking a little break over the holidays to spend extra time with family. Therefore there is no bible study or catechism class next Sunday, Dec. 28. The office will be open very limited hours between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day, so please call ahead instead of just stopping by.

HELP WANTED: PART-TIME JANITOR

We are seeking a self-motivated person to carry out janitorial duties at the church and school. Some responsibilities are taking out trash, cleaning the cafeteria, sweeping and mopping all floors in the school building, cleaning bathrooms, re-filling bathroom supplies, and picking up trash around the building. The hours are Monday-Friday 5:00 to 9:00 PM (20 hours per week). To apply contact Larry Wesenberg at 715-424-4996 or lwes@wctc.net.

IS ST. PAUL'S ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?

Additional Christmas gifts to St. Paul's will help ease the pressure of trying to keep a balance between weekly offerings and monthly expenses. It may even allow us to expand some ministries so that more lives can be touched with the gospel message. Please consider giving an extra, over-and-above gift to your St. Paul's family. These gifts can be placed in the wrapped gift box in the Welcome Center to accept such gifts. Your weekly envelopes will still go to their normal place, in the slots of the Information Table.

CALENDAR

December 20-27

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
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
WEDNESDAY	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice
	6:30 PM	People Close to God Class
THURSDAY	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service
	6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service
FRIDAY	9:30 AM	Christmas Morning Communion Service
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 171

From July 1, 2020 to December 11, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$436,187

Actual cost of ministry: \$465,841

Mortgage balance: \$1,318,628

TV SCHEDULE (Solarus 3 & Spectrum 985)

Dec. 24 at 12:00PM - School Christmas Service

Dec. 27 at 6:00PM - School Christmas Service

Dec. 30 at 1:00PM - Christmas Eve Service





www.stpaulswr.org

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