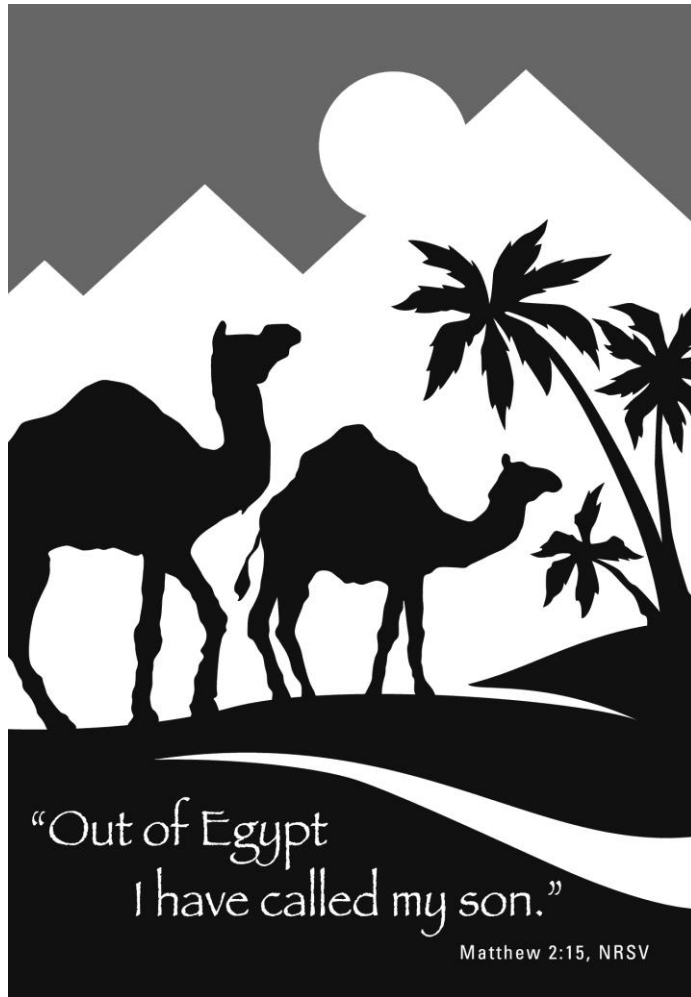


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



“Out of Egypt
I have called my son.”

Matthew 2:15, NRSV

Christ the Savior Is Born:
Son of God

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 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



Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made. But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin.

The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, God brings us into the family. He gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Mike Plagenz; Organist: Kristi Perry; Offering Music: The Plagenz Family

Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text 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.

The Service

Welcome

Hymn

334 I Stand beside Your Manger Here

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The third staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 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

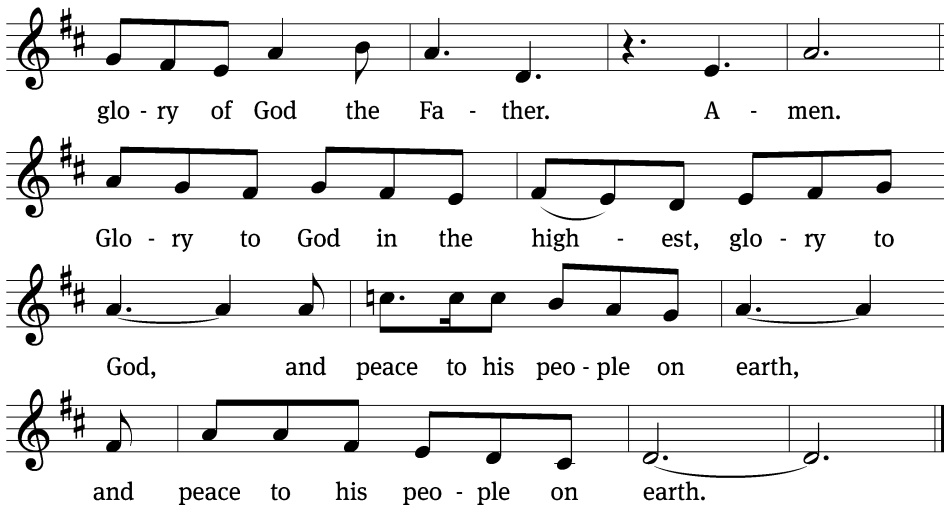
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

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.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman; © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; 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 63:7-9

The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.

⁷I will tell about the LORD's mercies, about the praises of the LORD, about all that the LORD has done for us, about his great goodness to the house of Israel, which he performed for them according to his abundant compassion, and according to his great mercy. ⁸He said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely," so he became their Savior. ⁹In all their anguish he felt anguish, and the Angel of his Presence saved them. In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them, and he took them up and carried them all the days of old. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

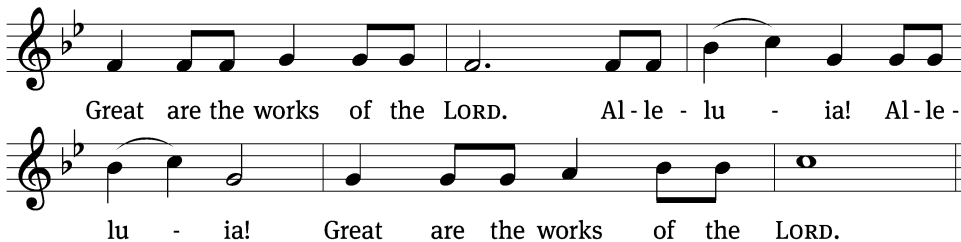
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

Even though earthly kings like Herod plot in vain, the Father's eternal Son will reign over Zion forever.

Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Tone



Why do the nations / conspire
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD
and against his A- / noointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”

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

Galatians 4:4-7

Redeemed by God's true Son, we can call God our "Father."

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to

shout, “Abba, Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ. (EHV[®])

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 98:1

Alleluia! Sing to the LORD a new song;

his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

God saves his Son from an early death. God’s plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.

¹³After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

¹⁴Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. ¹⁷Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ¹⁸A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod’s son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. ²³When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

355 *Let All Together Praise Our God*

Sermon

GOD HAS SENT US THE PERFECT GIFT

1. What is it?
2. Why is it so perfect for us?

Stand

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 truly 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

Special Prayers This Week

† Carolyn Zernicke who is hospitalized and near death.

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†

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Lord, in this holy season we rejoice with hearts and voices because you sent your one and only Son from his majestic glory to save us from the slavery of sin and the agonies of death. He took on our human flesh that he might reveal your divine glory.

He became our brother that we might become your children forever.

Give us quiet time during these busy days to reflect on your love and ponder the miracle of our Savior's incarnation. Help us look beyond our gift-giving and gift-receiving, and discover the greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins and life with you.

Put the joys of Christmas into the perspective of our eternal celebration.

Keep in your loving care all whose Christmas joys are diminished by sickness and sadness, by unhappy recollections and uncertain hopes. Comfort those who sense this Christmas may be their last, and raise their eyes to the brilliant lights of heaven.

Soothe consciences that are troubled by guilt, and show them the forgiving love of Christ.

We commend to your care all who proclaim the message of Christ during these holy days; all who care for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons; and all who put themselves out to bring joy to others, especially children.

Let the light of your grace shine through all ministries of mercy.

Send us your Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift our hearts to confident faith and holy living. By the power of your Word, bring your light to hearts struggling to understand you and searching to find you that they may know the joys of this season as we do.

Empower us to lead them to your love in our words and deeds.

Special Prayers

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent Prayer

All this we ask in the name of the newborn King, born in Bethlehem and now living and reigning forever in heaven.

Amen.

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.



Musical Offering

May We Enter The Stable?

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.

Be seated

Hymn

339 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



News & Announcements

A Fresh Start for the New Year

Come to our New Year's Eve Service and be assured that the sins of this past year have been forgiven. The service is on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 6:30 pm and includes the Lord's Supper.

Congregational & Call Meetings Scheduled

Our Winter Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 am. We will also discuss aspects of the second-pastor role. Then on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 pm, we will have a meeting to call a second pastor. Please plan to attend.

2026 Offering Envelopes

2026 offering envelopes have been placed in member mailslots. Please DO NOT use them until the new year as you may have been assigned a different number for the new year.



Calendar

December 28-January 4

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group in the chapel at Wisc Rapids Health Services
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
Wednesday	6:30 PM	New Year's Eve Worship
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the Bible Study Room
	10:30 AM	Sunday School (grades 3K-5 th)



Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 180

Next Sunday

Theme: Christ the Savior Is Born: Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-12; Matthew 2:1-12



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