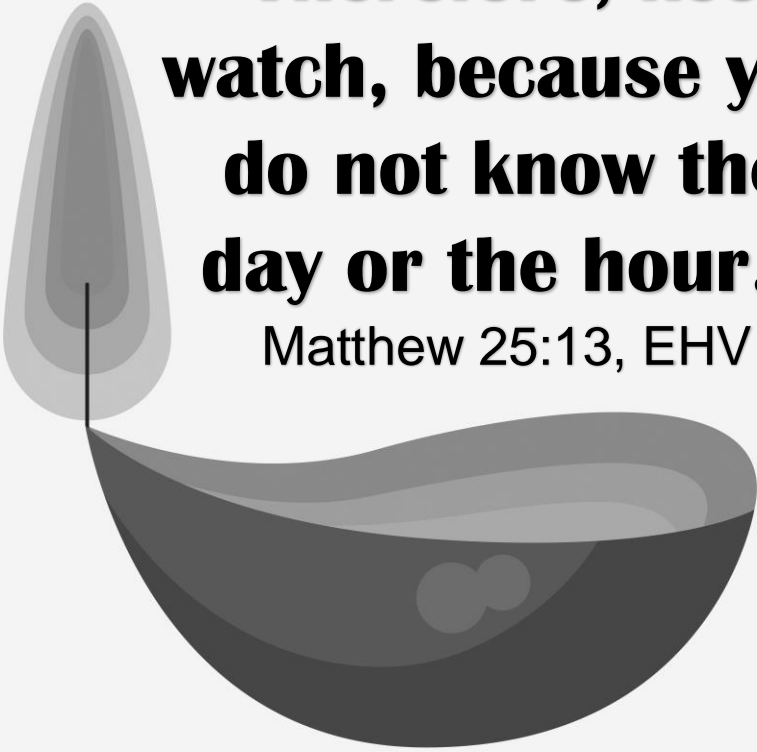


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**“Therefore, keep  
watch, because you  
do not know the  
day or the hour.”**

Matthew 25:13, EHV

Watching the Time, Trusting the Timeless Christ

*New Year's Eve 2025*

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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December 31, 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



As one year ends and another begins, we are reminded that our days and seasons unfold according to God's wise design. The passing of time calls us to live thoughtfully and watchfully, aware that the Lord's return will come at an unexpected hour. Yet this watchfulness is not marked by fear or uncertainty, for our confidence rests in Jesus Christ, who does not change as years come and go. As we step into a new year, we do so trusting his abiding presence now and looking ahead with hope to the lasting home he has promised.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist: Tammy Paul

## Acknowledgements

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# The Service

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## Welcome

## Hymn

367 Across the Sky the Shades of Night

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**the Maker of heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord:

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

*Psalm 51:1*

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

*Psalm 51:4*

**Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

*Psalm 51:5*

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"**

**and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*Psalm 32:5*

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

*Psalm 103:8*

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:8*

As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*Psalm 103:12*

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 8:1*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,

in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

*Ephesians 1:7*

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

1036 Gloria (Ger) - FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN

Tune: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,  
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!  
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;  
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz; Tune: Leonhart Schröter; Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903; Tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

# The Word

## Reading and Devotion

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is an appointed time.  
There is an appropriate time for every activity under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to give birth and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot plants,  
<sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
<sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
<sup>5</sup>a time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,  
a time to embrace and a time not to embrace,  
<sup>6</sup>a time to search and a time to stop searching,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
<sup>7</sup>a time to rip and a time to sew,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
<sup>8</sup>a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace. (EHV®)

*This hymn is a setting of Psalm 90, the appointed Psalm for New Year's Eve. It points us to the timelessness of our God in the midst of this world's constant change.*

## Hymn

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past sts. 1-2



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.; Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727; Text and tune: Public domain

## Reading and Devotion

Hebrews 13:5–8,14

<sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said:

I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you.

<sup>6</sup>So then we say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

What will man do to me?

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

<sup>14</sup>For we do not have a permanent city here, but we are looking for the city that is coming. (EHV<sup>®</sup>)

## Hymn

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past sts. 3-4



3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,

4 A thou-sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end-less years the same.

short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.; Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727; Text and tune: Public domain

## Reading and Devotion

Matthew 25:1–13

<sup>1</sup>“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (EHV<sup>®</sup>)

## Hymn

820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past sts. 5-6



5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, soon bears us all a - way;  
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



we fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - p'ning day.  
still be our guard while trou - bles last and our e - ter - nal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.; Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727; Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Church

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you love your whole creation and forget none of your creatures. We bring you our prayers for all your children, for all those we love and all those committed to your care:

**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For all who have blessed us with kindness, led us with patience, and restored and refreshed us by their sympathy and help:

**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For all who have wished or done us ill, that you would turn their hearts to penitence and ours to blessing:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have experienced worldly loss, that in the midst of darkness and confusion they may find their peace in you:

**We implore you to hear us, O God.**

For all who are absorbed in their own grief, that they may be raised to share the sorrows of their brothers and sisters and to know and appreciate the fellowship of those who bear Christ's cross:

**We implore you to hear us, O God.**

For all who are undergoing temptations of the flesh or who imagine evil in their hearts, that you would enable them to overcome and obtain the victory through Christ:

**Be merciful and spare them, good Lord.**

For all who are lonely and sad in the midst of the joys of others, that they may know you as their Father, Friend, and Comforter:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the infirm, the aged, and all who are approaching death, that they may find their strength in you and obtain a blessed end:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all for whom we have forgotten to pray but who are dear to you:

**Assist them according to their needs, and bring them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.**

O God our Father, hear our intercessions, answer them according to your will, and make us the channels of your infinite pity and helpfulness.

**In Jesus' name we pray. 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.**

## **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.*



## 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.

## The Sacrament

### Exhortation

Our Lord Jesus has given us a Holy Supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. Let us celebrate and receive this Sacrament in Christ's name and according to his command.

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: ANTHES

1046 Sanctus (Ger) - ANTHES



1 Sing, “Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky.”  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, “Ho - san - na!” Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God’s name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
“Ho - san - na in the high - est!” our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\text{T}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\text{T}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

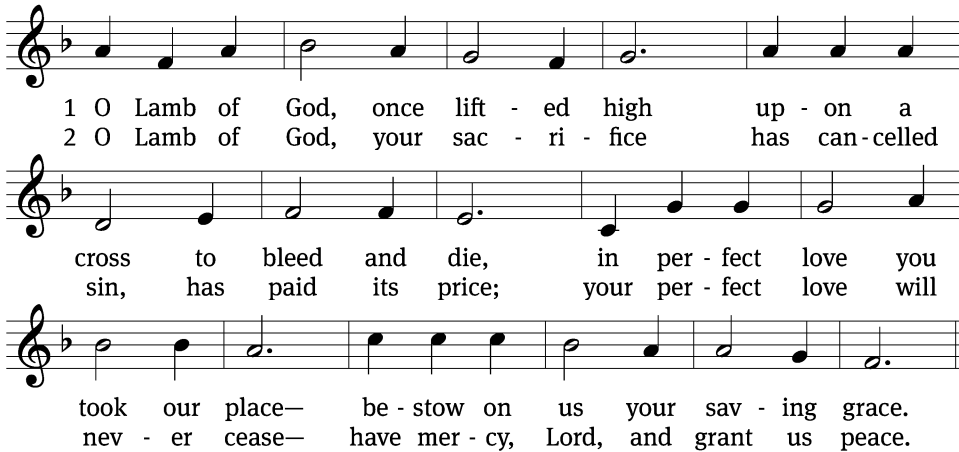
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

1057 Agnus (Ger) - GOTTLOB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE

Tune: GOTTLOB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a  
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled  
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you  
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will  
took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.  
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

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## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## Prayer

*Psalm 90*

God our Father, our lives are passing shadows, but you endure forever. Teach us to make the most of every day so that we avoid inciting your anger and instead find our everlasting refuge in you; for you live and rule with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

*930 Go, My Children, with My Blessing*





[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

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