



**THE LORD WILL COME TO LIFT UP ALL
GENERATIONS IN CHRIST**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

December 19, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord, as we draw closer to the day of your birth, open our minds to see you as the fulfillment of God's promises given generations ago. Open our hearts to trust in the fact that you'll still be the fulfillment of those promises for the generations to come. Bless our worship of your work throughout history on behalf of your Church. In your name we pray. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



HOLY COMMUNION

Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (1 Cor. 10:17). For these reasons, it is our practice that only those who are members of St. Paul's or of a congregation within our fellowship join us at the Lord's Table. If you are interested in learning how you can partake of Holy Communion with us in the future, the pastor would be pleased to speak with you after the service.

THE COMMON SERVICE

The Common Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. As with all of our liturgies, its purpose is to focus us on the good news of forgiveness and to build us up in Christ.

OPENING HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord | 21

please stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

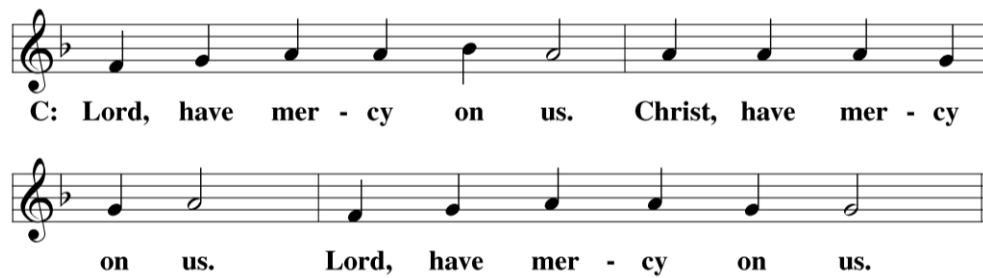


CONFESSION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY



ABSOLUTION

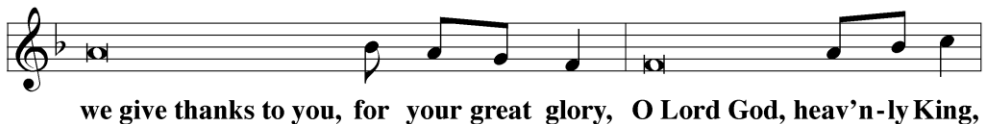
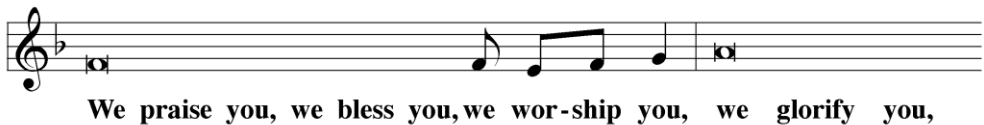
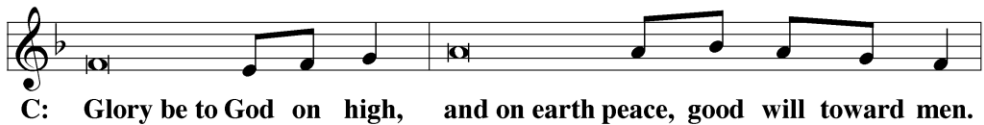
M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.



Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: O Lord, take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up,
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 12:1-6

¹A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant, and she cried out in pain and agony as she gave birth.

³Another sign also appeared in the sky: There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman, who was about to give birth, so that he could devour the child as soon as it was born.

⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God in order that she might be fed there for 1,260 days.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.



please stand

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

continued...

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | 23

SERMON

Revelation 12:1-6

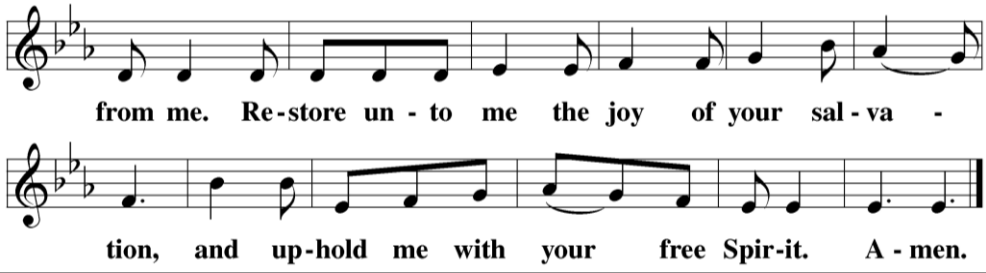
Who Is the Male Child?

please stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it

continued...



be seated

OFFERING

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(10:00 am)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The presiding minister will speak the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.156 in the hymnal for preparation.

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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 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 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17).

Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

All People that on Earth Do Dwell | 233

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord | 274

as needed

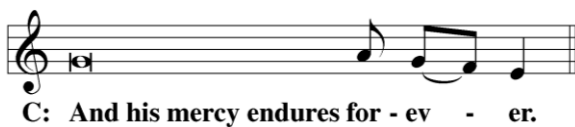
Thanksgiving

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

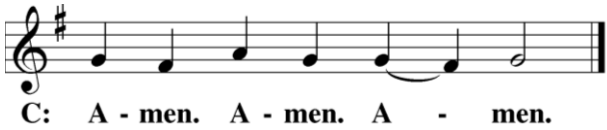
M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

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.



CLOSING HYMN

Zion, at Your Shining Gates | 701



1 Zi - on, at your shin - ing gates, See, the
 2 Christ, your king - dom comes to - day As we
 3 Come and give us peace with - in, Loose us
 4 Give us grace your yoke to wear, Give us
 5 So when you shall come a - gain, Lord of



King of glo - ry waits; Haste your mon - arch now to
 hear your Spir - it say: "God's own Son, a sac - ri -
 from the bands of sin, Take a - way the heav - y
 strength your cross to bear, Make us yours in deed and
 an - gels and of men, We with all your saints shall



greet, Spread your palms be - fore his feet.
 fice— Sin - ners' way to par - a - dise."
 weight Laid on us by greed and hate.
 word, Yours in heart and life, O Lord.
 sing Loud ho - san - nas to our King.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH FEEDING (BIBLE STUDY) CONTINUES

Sunday School and Bible Study: *Christmas Eve program prep (children); Jesus Arrives (adults)*

Midweek Bible Study (Tues., 7pm; Wed. 9am): *off until Jan. 4*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY PLAN

This week (Dec. 19) we'll be having the special Sunday School and Bible study listed above. Then we'll take a two-week break over Christmas break, so there will be only Fellowship hour between services on December 26 and January 2. Midweek study will resume on January 4 and 5 with our next evangelism workshop (see below), and Sunday studies will resume on January 9.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY → ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS!

It's important for a congregation to have a pulse on the thoughts and desires of its members, and it's important for members to be able to share their honest input and opinions about their congregation's ministry. To serve both of those purposes, a congregational survey has been prepared at the link below (hard copies are available on the bulletin board for those who *cannot* use the link). **The survey is completely anonymous.** Your honest input will be invaluable to the leadership here at St. Paul's as we move forward in gospel ministry for the sake of Christ's name. Each member may fill out the survey, but **please only submit one survey response per person** so we can get an accurate assessment of St. Paul's ministry. We'll be collecting responses until the first of the year. Thank you for your input!

Survey link (also in email): <https://forms.gle/rTzVyDZzpJvRBPRF8>

NEXT EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

On January 4 and 5, we'll begin our next evangelism workshop entitled *Let's Go*. *Let's Go* is designed to encourage and equip Christians to connect unchurched people in their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Seven lessons will help us focus on three important aspects of evangelism: Love, Listen, and Lead. Each lesson consists of a video followed by Q&A and application. Come join us as we now equip ourselves to be better proclaimers and ambassadors of the gospel for our Lord and for those who need to know his grace!

THE LIVE NATIVITY

St. Paul's is scheduled to volunteer for one more night, tonight from 5:00-9:00 pm. If you're able, please show up. They'll find you a role to play!

Help will also be needed for Live Nativity takedown on January 1st, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, down at Riverside. Any amount of time you can lend to help with this is greatly appreciated.

SCHEDULE YOUR TIME FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS

We'll be using Universal Church Directories to run the production of our new church directory.

They will be at St. Paul's to take our photos February 1-5 and February 8-9. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to **www.ucdir.com**, click on "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login" on the right side, enter **wi163** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have six or more in your family please use two consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Please call Shelly Lafky (608-797-4167) if you need assistance in scheduling. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory.

MORNINGS WITH MOMMY

We're starting a program for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers in the new year! The sessions all filled up within a day of posting registration. The program will take place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We're looking for volunteers that could help organize, set up, prepare materials, and meet and greet! If you're interested in helping with this program in any way, please contact Heather Groth at 608-351-1025 or heather.l.korb@gmail.com.

BASKETBALL GAMES HELP

Would you be able to help with homes games for our St. Paul's Redwings basketball team? If you would be able to help with the games and with concessions, please contact Mrs. Handy at 608-394-8681 or chandy@stpaulsbangor.com.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sylvia Horstman is the new contact for Fellowship Hour. Her phone number is 608-486-4246. We're in need of people to host for 2022, so please contact Sylvia or sign up in the church lobby if you'd like to help out.

GIVING TREE

There's a tree set up in the narthex near the church entryway. Feel free to grab something on there that you need or would enjoy. Also feel free to add anything to the tree for someone else to enjoy! Merry Christmas!

CAMM LETTER

The Central Africa Medical Mission letter for December can be found on the bulletin board in the church lobby.

CARING CHRISTIANS

Caring Christians - Mental Health will meet at First Lutheran in La Crosse on Monday, January 3, at 6:30 pm. The topic will be: Making realistic goals.

DISASTER RELIEF

At this time, we are unaware of any of our WELS congregations or members who have been directly impacted by the recent major storms. Praise God for watching over his people! Because of this, WELS Christian Aid and Relief (CAR) currently is not planning to mobilize volunteers for onsite disaster relief work. Because they don't have the deep resources or infrastructure of FEMA or the Red Cross, it is very difficult to go into areas where WELS doesn't have a congregation nearby. In these situations, it has been CAR's practice to use the local WELS church as "home base" from which to train, equip, deploy, and support volunteers. However, though WELS doesn't have any churches near the area of greatest devastation, CAR will continue to look for opportunities to go to the area and help those in need.

What can you do to help? The best way to help currently is through your financial gifts. You can give a gift through the disaster fund at wels.net/CARgift (designate the gift to "disaster relief"). CAR is also looking for other avenues of assistance and will keep us updated as they find out more.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2021 Weekly Budget: \$9,855.43	Budget to Date: \$482,916.07
Received 12/12: \$7,341.26	Rec'd to Date: \$385,624.31

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 130 10:00 am: 90 Total: 220
Live Stream Peak Live Viewers: 24
Sunday Bible Study: 36
Sunday School: 9
Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 28

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	5:00-9:00 pm	St. Paul’s @ The Live Nativity
FRIDAY	4:30 pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Program
	6:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Program
SATURDAY	9:00 am	Christmas Day Song Service
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Worship

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist	Irene Bakken

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