

THE TIME

IN BETWEEN



A TIME FOR WATCHFULNESS

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

November 12, 2023

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

Judge of all the earth, as I wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. Come to my aid through your Word lest I should be found spiritually asleep when Christ returns. Today remind me that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. Keep me ready and excited to experience that Day. In Jesus' name I 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.



SETTING ONE

p.154

The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CHIMES

Thy Word

CHOIR

Praise and Thanksgiving

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

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

DECLARATION OF GRACE

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.



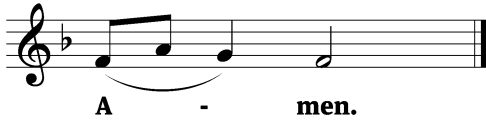
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



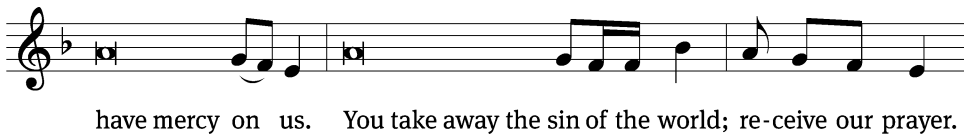
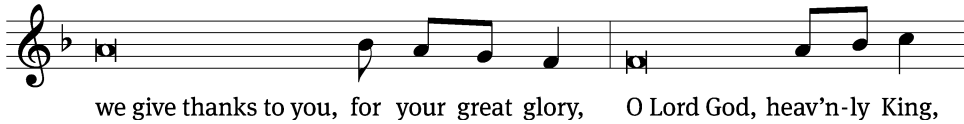
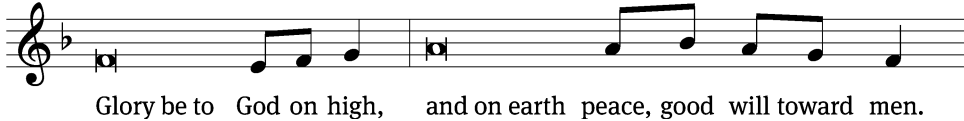
Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



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

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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 52:1–6

¹Wake, awake!
Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.
Put on your beautiful garments,
Jerusalem, you holy city,
for never again will the uncircumcised
and the unclean enter you.

²Shake off the dust.
Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.
Loosen the chains from your neck,
you captive daughter of Zion.

³Yes, this is what the LORD says.
You were sold for nothing,
and you will be redeemed without money.

⁴Yes, this is what the LORD God says.
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while.
Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

⁵Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.
My name is continually despised all day.

⁶Therefore my people will know my name.
So on that day they will know that I am the one—
the one who is saying, “Here I am!”

The Word of the Lord.

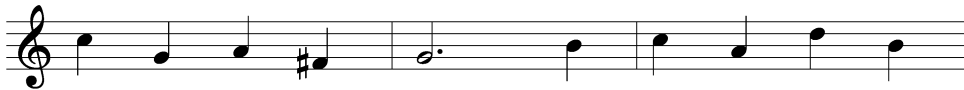
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 90D



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is your
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
you are God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Time, like an everrolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

*Text: Isaac Watts, abr., alt.
Tune: William Croft
Text and tune: Public domain*

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, ²for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

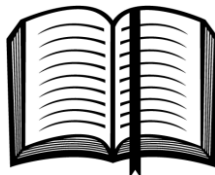
Matthew 24:42

Alleluia!

Therefore keep watch,

because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But 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.’ ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.



HYMN OF THE DAY

633 Speak, O Lord



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
 true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
 of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
 dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Wake Up!

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

OFFERING

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.

Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment.

If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

We confess with joy that your unfailing love has redeemed us.

Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.

Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.

Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.

Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.

Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.

Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.

Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. Amen.

HYMN

713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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Stand

PRAYER

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, 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.**

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

CLOSING HYMN

518 Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way. —
drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth. —
death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care, —
Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand, —
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can



dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Irish

Text: © 1964, ren. 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

Tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. PAUL'S APPAREL

Our webstore with Games People Play is live and ready for orders for St. Paul's apparel. There are some new items to purchase for church and school. School parents, there's a school field trip section for field trip apparel for your students. **Please order by November 16** so we can have these items by Christmas. Thanks! <https://gppsports.chipply.com/stpaulbangor23>

MIDWEEK STUDY – THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our first midweek Bible study this fall is on one of the most interesting books of Scripture: Revelation. Chapter by chapter the author cuts a pathway through each vision and prophecy of Revelation until he reaches the clearing where we behold a new heaven and a new earth. The 12 Lessons include: The Purpose, Outline and Interpretation of the Book; The Letters to the Seven Churches; God's Rule of the World; The Seven Seals; God's Judgment of the World; The Church Secure and Glorified; The Devil and His Helpers Appear; The Seven Bowls of Wrath; The Downfall of the Devil's Allies; The Millennium; The New Heaven and the New Earth; and Review. Join us as we continue to dive into the imagery and meaning of Christ our Savior in the book of Revelation.

SNOW REMOVAL HELP

It is time to start thinking about snow again! We have a dedicated, but small group of gentlemen who keep our sidewalks clear of snow in the winter. These volunteers provide a great service and savings to the congregation. It would be very helpful to them if we could get three to five more volunteers. We have a schedule of two volunteers per day. If it happens to snow on your day, you remove the snow. The more volunteers we have, they have less days on the schedule. If you live near town and are retired or have a profession such that you are able to help out with this, please contact Dan Arndt. (608) 269-1200.

LUTHER FRUIT AND MORE SALE

This is the last Sunday for the annual Luther Music Fundraiser. See the order form in the narthex or order online at: lutherk12.revtrak.net/fruit-sale/#/list. Abbie Urbanek will be set up in the church basement to take orders.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

St. Paul's Ladies Aid will host an Advent by Candlelight, by women for women, for ladies of the congregation, female family members and friends on Sunday, December 3, at 2:00 pm in the church basement. The theme for the event is "The King Shall Come." There is no charge for the event. This is a wonderful afternoon of Word, music, and fellowship to help prepare your hearts for the Advent season before the holidays get into full swing. Refreshments will be served. To help the committee plan, please sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway with your name(s) and number attending in your group.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS - CHRISTMAS EVE

Any 4K through 8th grade public school students in the congregation are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve evening services at St. Paul's. Children's services are at 4:30 and 6:00 pm that evening. Copies of the service for memorization will be placed in the narthex (on the shelf under the worship bulletins). A practice schedule will also be placed there after it is set. If your child is participating, please coordinate rides during the school day with the Bangor school office. If transportation is needed, please contact Pastor Groth.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St. Paul's Thanksgiving worship service will once again be the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving at 7:00 pm. The service will include communion.

PIZZA RANCH SUPPER

The 5-8 Graders would like to invite you to supper at Pizza Ranch. On Tuesday December 5th 4pm - 9pm. 10 and younger kids will eat free with a paying adult. Hope to see you there.

OCTOBER VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

Copies of the October voters' meeting minutes can be found in the narthex.

CAMM LETTER

Copies of the November letter for the Central Africa Medical Mission can be found in the narthex.

LIVE NATIVITY SETUP

Setup for the Live Nativity at Riverside Park will continue on November 18th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rotary provides lunch. Many hands make light work! Please come for any amount of time you can spare. Questions? Call George Italiano (608-317-0271)

LIVE NATIVITY SIGNUP

Start a new family tradition of sharing the good news of Christ's birth by volunteering down at Riverside Park. Many people are needed to staff the diorama each of the following evenings: November 24, 25, 26, and December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 25. Pick a night or two and come down for any amount of time you can spare. (Friday/Saturdays 5-10pm...Sundays 5-9pm) Sign up using one of the following ways: 1) Under the event on the Live Nativity Riverside- Diorama Facebook page; 2) Text/call Maria Johnson 608-397-4810 or email johnson.maria@live.com; 3) Scan the QR code to get to the signup link.



OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00	Budget to Date: \$504,135.00
Received Last Week: \$7,717.65	Rec'd to Date: \$357,130.16

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 117 Live Stream Peak: 13 10:00 am: 75 Total: 205
Sunday Bible Study: 38 Sunday School: 9 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 31

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist Irene Bakken

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