

A TIME FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

November 19, 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

Christ Jesus, as I wait for your return, forgive me for the times I am sedentary. Remind me today that there is still work to be done and that you carry out your good work through me and all believers. Bless the gifts and talents you've given me to use all for your glory. In this time between, help me to live according to your will and to carry out your mission. In your name, 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

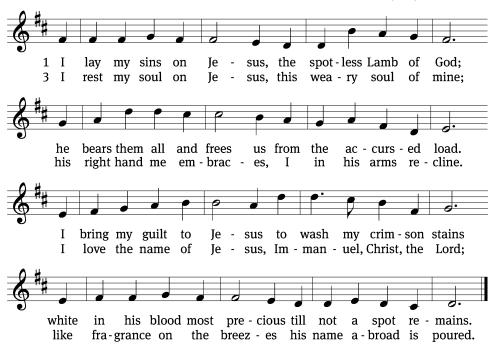
Today St. Paul's will be celebrating Holy Communion. The Bible tells us that those who take the Lord's Supper together are to recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 11:29), examine themselves (1 Cor. 11:28), and be united in faith with their fellow communicants (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.

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.

OPENING HYMN (8:00 am)

798 I Lay My Sins on Jesus sts. 1, 3



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876 Text and tune: Public domain

CHOIR – GRADES 3-8 (10:00 am)

There Is a Higher Throne

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

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

ABSOLUTION

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



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



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



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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 1:10–18

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

¹¹What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the LORD. I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings and enough fat from well-fed animals. I am not pleased with the blood of bulls or the blood of lambs and male goats. ¹²When you come to appear before me, who has asked for this from your hands: this trampling on my courts? ¹³Stop bringing worthless offerings! Your incense is an abomination to me.

continued...

I cannot stand your sinful assemblies on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.

¹⁴Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts.

They have become a burden to me.

I am tired of putting up with them.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.

Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.

Remove your evil deeds from my sight.

Stop doing evil. ¹⁷Learn to do good.

Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed.

Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.

¹⁸Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD.

Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow.

Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 12:1–8

¹Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. ²Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

³So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. ⁴For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. ⁵In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. ⁷If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. ⁸If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 2:10

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴"You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

²¹"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

continued

²²"The servant who received the two talents came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.'

²³"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴"Then the servant who received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

²⁶"His master answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. ²⁸Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. ²⁹Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

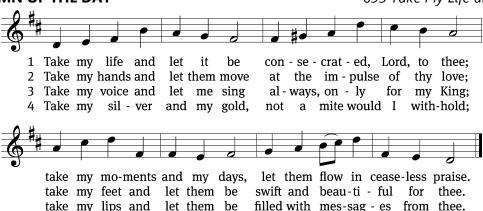
Praise be to you, O Christ!

take my in - tel - lect and use

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

695 Take My Life and Let It Be



10

ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.
- Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON Romans 12:1-8

A Living Offering

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

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).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The pastor speaks the Prayer of the Church on behalf of the congregation.

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.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

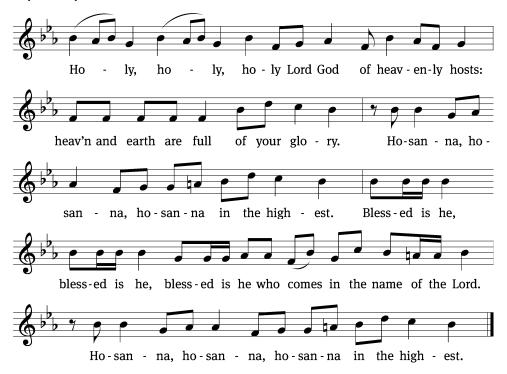


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

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 + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

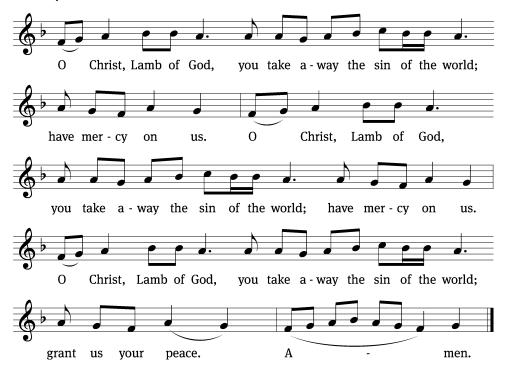
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

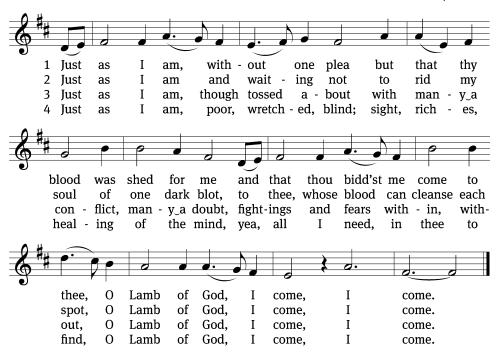


Be seated

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 HYMN



- Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Text and tune: Public domain

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt. Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

as needed



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693
Text and tune: Public domain

THANKSGIVING

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.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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.

Amen.

BLESSING

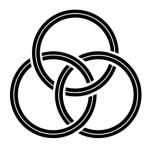
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

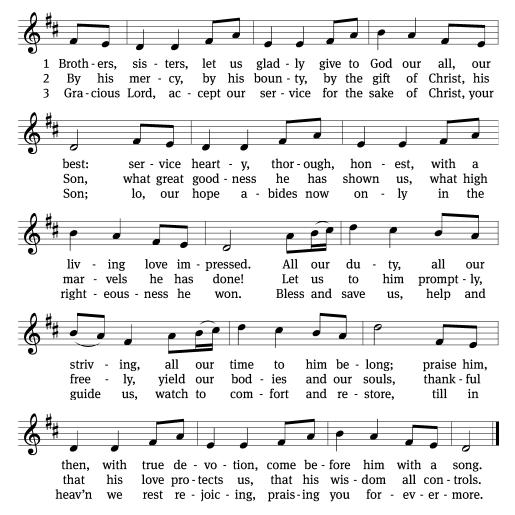
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated



CLOSING HYMN



Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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 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: \$515,338.00 Received Last Week: \$7,636.31 Rec'd to Date: \$364,766.47

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 137 Live Stream Peak: 18 10:00 am: 75 Total: 230

Sunday Bible Study: 52 Sunday School: 13 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 27

CALENDAR

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist Harriet Langrehr

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