

THE TIME

IN BETWEEN



A TIME TO YEARN FOR THE END

Last Sunday of the Church Year

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

November 26, 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

Lord Jesus, in this time as I await your return, you know that I am bombarded by all the effects of sin: sadness, pain, disease, heartache, loss, death, and so many more. Lift my heart today with the promises that accompany your completed work. You have silenced Satan's accusations against me forever by your death and resurrection, so keep me established in faith that I can experience all of the other blessings I know will come thanks to you. Bless my yearning for the end of this age and my desire to be with you forever in the next. In your 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 THREE

p.188

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

488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near when Je - sus, God's a -
2 A trum - pet loud shall then re - sound and all the earth be
3 A book is o - pened then to all, a rec - ord tru - ly
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord and sought but car - nal



noint - ed, shall with great maj - es - ty ap - pear as judge of
shak - en. Then all who in their graves are found shall from their
tell - ing what each has done, both great and small, when they on
plea-sures, who here de-spised his pre-cious Word and loved their



all ap - point - ed. All mirth and laugh - ter then shall cease when
sleep a - wak - en and with the liv - ing in that hour, by
earth were dwell - ing, and ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, and
earth - ly trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand and



flames on flames will still in - crease, as Scrip - ture tru - ly teach - es.
God's al - might - y, bound-less pow'r, be changed at his com-mand-ing.
all be known as they have been in thoughts and words and ac - tions.
at the judg - e's stern com-mand to Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

verses 5 & 6...

- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
and for my sin was smitten;
within the Book of Life I know
my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
and Satan cannot threaten me;
there is no condemnation!
- 6 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
but hasten our salvation;
we often tremble on our way
in fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
come soon, Redeemer, make us free
from ev'ry evil. Amen.

Text: tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.; Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–1599, abr.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

EXHORTATION

In peace, let us praise the Lord.

BLESS THE LORD

623 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

(short musical intro)



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie for -
3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis
4 He fills the poor with good; he gives the suf - f'ers rest. The
5 His won-drous works and ways he made by Mo - ses known but



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness and with - out prais - es die.
he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.
Lord has judg - ments for the proud and jus - tice for th'op - pressed.
sent the world his truth and grace by his be - lov - ed Son.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; 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

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

⁹I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire. ¹⁰A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

¹³I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
 his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope.

¹⁴Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

¹⁵In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 22:13

Alleluia!

**I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger

and you welcomed me. ³⁶I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

³⁷"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

⁴⁰"The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.'

⁴⁴"Then they will also answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?'

⁴⁵"At that time he will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.' ⁴⁶And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at naught and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

You'll know what that one word means.

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

"I know, my God, that you test the heart, and you take pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things. Now with joy I see your people, who are present here to bring the offering freely to you" (1 Chronicles 29:17).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. [Today we ask that you keep in your care... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Special intercessions may be spoken here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet. Amen.



HYMN

889 Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—
 2 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them, the day-light is se - rene;



the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect,
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.



I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
 where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight
 There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,



what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare:
 for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white:
 the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.



to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,
 in mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest
 To God en - throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,



a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound - ing full with song.
 where sings the host of heav - en your glo - rious name to bless.
 the Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, the Light that knows no end.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.

Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text and tune: Public domain

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

850 *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re-sound, and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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

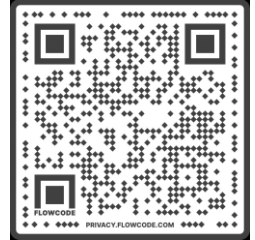
Any 4K through 8th grade public school students in the congregation are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve evening services at St. Paul's. Children's services are at 4:30 and 6:00 pm that evening. Copies of the service for memorization will be placed in the narthex (on the shelf under the worship 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.

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.

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: \$526,541.00
Received Last Week: \$9,053.03	Rec'd to Date: \$373,819.50

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 91 Live Stream Peak: 21 10:00 am: 98 Total: 210
Sunday Bible Study: 40 Sunday School: 7 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: N/A

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	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
THURSDAY	2:00 pm	Ladies Aid Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY		First Sunday in Advent
	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	2:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth
Irene Bakken

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