



The King Shall Come

PREPARE TO MEET HIM

Second Sunday in Advent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

December 10, 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, my Savior and King, you rule the world with power and grace. Help me prepare to meet you with a solemn, repentant heart. Reveal my sins and the punishment they deserve, and reveal your sacrifice that forgives those sins and calms my anxious conscience. Through the servants you have called, spur me on to live for you in your kingdom now as I await your return and the glory that is to come. I ask for your grace now and forever. 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.

SCHOOL & ADULT CHOIRS

First Song of Isaiah

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.

GLORY TO GOD

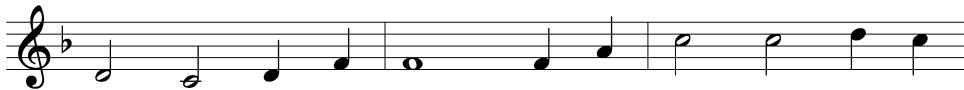
Tune: BEACH SPRING



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he loves so
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -



well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this 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

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,

and every mountain and hill will be made low.

continued...

The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Yes, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹Get up on a high mountain,
O Zion, you herald of good news.
Lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.
Lift it up! Do not be afraid!
Say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength,
and his arm is ruling for him.
Look, his reward is with him.
The result of his work is in front of him.

¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.
With his arm he will gather the lambs.
He will lift them up on his lap.
He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
 na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The — val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like the flow'rs of the field they — per - ish; like
 He shall feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and — pomp of
 lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way.
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.

Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988

Text: Public domain

Tune: © 1938 Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹²as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

And all people will see God's salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare the way for you.

³A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight."

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

⁶John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

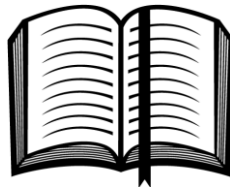
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

2 Peter 3:8-14

Live Like Those Looking Forward to the Day



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

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

HYMN

317 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed by Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, he leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, who bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, that we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came with words of con - so - la - tion.
con - fess - ing him as Lord whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
whose sac - ri - fice re - moves the dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
the word pro - claimed by John, our true re - pent - ance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal the great - er one he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, a new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, who takes a - way our sin,
that glad - ly we may walk up - on our Sav - ior's way



and him, as yet un - known, as Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
he tes - ti - fied of him whom proph - ets had fore - told.
who for our peace and joy will full a - tone - ment win.
un - til we live with him in his e - ter - nal day.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



- 1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve:

8:00 & 10:00 am – Worship

9:10 am – Sunday School Christmas Video in Sanctuary

9:15 am – Fellowship Hour (no Bible study)

4:30 & 6:00 pm – Children's Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day:

9:00 am – Christmas Hymn Festival Service

LUTHER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Luther High School invites you to their annual Christmas concert entitled *Love Incarnate, Love Divine* today, December 10, at 2:00 pm in the Luther High Chapel Auditorium.

MIDWEEK STUDY – THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Our midweek Bible study 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.

GIVING TREE

The Ladies Aid has put up a Giving Tree in the narthex. Feel free to bring something to place on the tree as a gift to someone else, and feel free to grab something from the tree for yourself!

CAMM LETTER

The December newsletter for the Central Africa Medical Mission can be found in the lobby.

KOINE CONCERT

WELS band Koine will be holding a Christmas concert at Luther High School on Saturday, December 16, at 7:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

HEALTHY MARRIAGE

WELS Discipleship has scheduled a Marriage Enrichment weekend, Jan. 19-21, 2024. It's hosted at the Stella Hotel and Ballroom in Kenosha, WI.

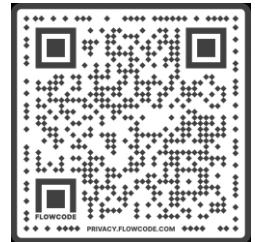
Jesus has identified "determinants of a healthy marriage," things that affect the health of your marriage. As it turns out, the same factors that contribute to a healthy life with Jesus contribute to a healthy marriage. Healthy Marriage will help you learn those "determinants of a healthy marriage." More than that, Healthy Marriage will equip you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage long after this memorable weekend retreat.



The weekend includes lodging for two days, breakfast on both days, lunch on Saturday, and all workshop materials. The deadline to register is Dec. 19, 2023 (use QR code). Register early; space is limited.

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.



GIFT GIVEN

A gift of \$1000 has been given to the St. Paul's Church Endowment Trust in memory of Charles Arndt.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00

Budget to Date: \$548,947.00

Received Last Week: \$8,353.93

Rec'd to Date: \$392,407.86

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 91 Live Stream Peak: 15 10:00 am: 96 Total: 202

Sunday Bible Study: 37 Sunday School: 7 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 32

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
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

Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth

Irene Bakken

Copyright Information

Scripture quotations cited from *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™* (EHV™) copyright © 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The following is the list of men who have been nominated for service to the Lord at St. Paul's (asterisk denotes an incumbent). Voting will take place at the annual meeting on **January 21st at 11:15 am.**

Church Council

Dan Arndt*
Blake Horstman
Chad Horstman*
Tim Johnson
Steve Lund
Todd Miller

Stewardship-Evangelism

Michael Johnson*
Scott Rich

Luther High Association

Jon Engelbrecht
Donald Peterson*
Gary Schomberg
Josh Stratman
Kevin Stratman*
Al Urbanek

Finance Committee

Justin Berg*
Troy Duerwachter
Tyler Duerwachter
Luke Frederick*
James Gade
Matt Garves
Kris Hammes
Ben Horstman
Carter Horstman
Jeff Koltermann
Zach Kotek
John Langrehr Jr.
Grant Manke
Steve Parr*
Brad Spoo
Jesse Todd

Education Committee

(No expired terms this year)



WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

608-486-2754

401 16th Ave. N, Bangor, WI 54614

stpaulsbangor.com