

HE IS BRINGING PERFECT JOY

Third Sunday in Advent

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

December 17, 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 Christ, you are the source of my every lasting joy. Forgive me when I seek joy that is fleeting over and above the joy you bring through the gospel, and cleanse me of every desire to find my joy of salvation in trusting in myself. Point me today to you and your sacrifice as the true source of joy, and refresh me in the message of sins forgiven and eternal life given. 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

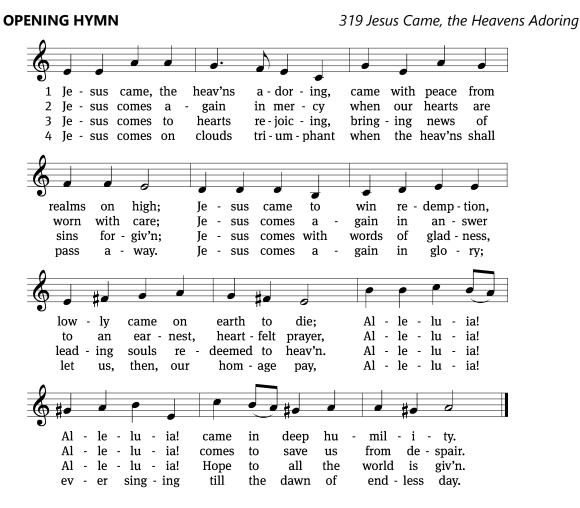
You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely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



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 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.



Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, abr., alt. Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1698 Text and tune: Public domain

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.

EXHORTATION

In peace, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

(no musical intro)



Text: Michael A. Perry

Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868

Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

Tune: Public domain

The Word

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1–3,10-11

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted.
 He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound,
 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn,
 to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD. My soul will celebrate because of my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me, like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest, and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

¹¹For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up, so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in the presence of all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²²Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 11:10

Alleluia!
I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:6–8,19–28

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he answered.

²²Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

HYMN OF THE DAY



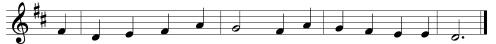
- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a-right?
- 2 Love caused your in car na tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re joice, then, you sad-heart ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
- 4 Sin's debt, that fear-ful bur-den, let not your souls dis-tress;
- 5 He comes to judge the na-tions, a ter-ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



0 Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way, Oh, love be - vond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand-ing at the door comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n, love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo-rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry dav. ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race! love, all love in you and bids you weep no more. who best can help and cheer se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n. chil - dren thus send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

A Joyous Gift Exchange

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

"Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Stand

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.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

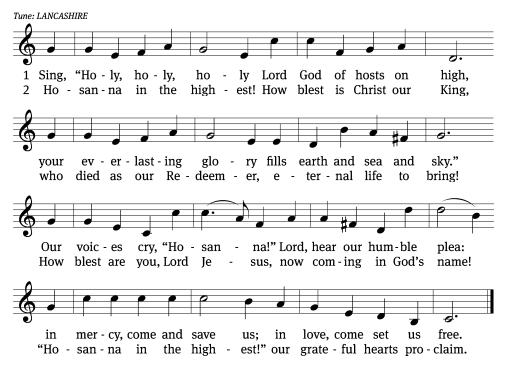
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

(no musical intro)



Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Henry T. Smart

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Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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."

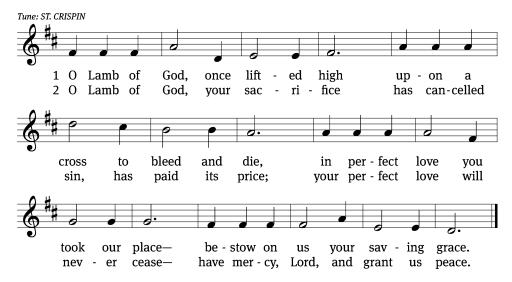
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

(no musical intro)

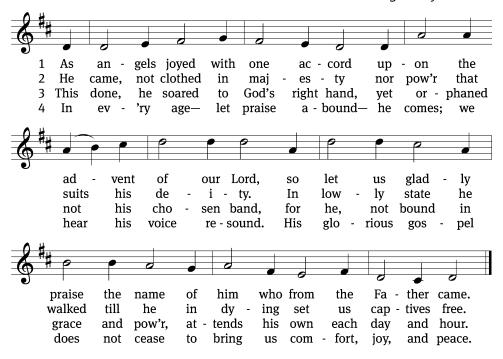


Be seated

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.

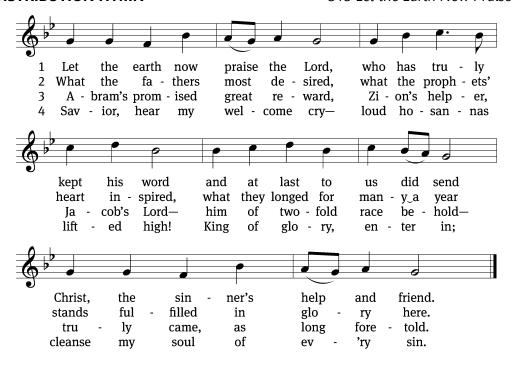
DISTRIBUTION HYMN



- He comes in water to the child and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
 This washing seals his pard'ning grace and shows the Father's kindly face.
- He comes to us in bread and wine to give himself and gifts divine.
 O praise him for this sacrament, redeeming love's great testament!
- 7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall vanish when he comes again. Where we shall see him face to face, there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



- Crush for me the serpent's head that, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to you in faith,
 safely kept through life and death,
- And, when you shall come again as a glorious king to reign,
 I with joy may see your face,
 freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889 Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

as needed



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through 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



- 1 Re joice, re joice, be liev ers, and let your lights ap pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the Bride-groom near;
- 3 You saints, who here in pa tience your cross and suf f'rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex pec ta tion, O Je sus, now ap pears



the eve-ning is ad-vanc-ing, and dark-er night is near. go forth, as he ap-proach-es, with al-le-lu-ias clear. shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor-row is no more. a - rise. O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad-owed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh. The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand. A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold, With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid-night comes the cry. A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand in tri-umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold. the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.; Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr. Tune: Swedish

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

SNOW REMOVAL AGAIN

We were not successful in expanding the number of helpers during the week for snow removal. Therefore, it is being covered by our core group of great volunteers. However, we did hear from a number of potential volunteers that said they could help on the weekend. This would take some of the burden off those who are covering the weekdays. If you are willing to become part of the snow removal team on the weekends, please contact Dan Arndt at dana@arndtbuswellthorn.com or 608-269-1200.

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!

CHILI SUPPER

On January 20th, from 4:00-8:00 pm, our grades 5-8 students will be hosting a chili supper in the church basement. A freewill donation can be given at the door. Carry-outs are available. Homemade lefse will be sold the day of the event. Proceeds will help support their school trip in May.

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.

ENDOWMENT TRANSFER OF FUNDS

St. Paul's school has received a transfer of funds of \$6,503.93 from the School Endowment Trust. We are thankful for the generous and thoughtful contributions of past and present members to the Endowment Trust. Those gifts continue to bless and support our school.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$560,150.00 Received Last Week: \$9,299.41 Rec'd to Date: \$401,707.27

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 171 Online Viewers: 55 10:00 am: 54 Total: 280

Sunday Bible Study: 74 Sunday School: 19 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 31

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 21**st 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)

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	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
FRIDAY	8:15 pm	Full Children's Christmas Service Practice
FRIDAY NEXT SUNDAY	8:15 pm 8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	Full Children's Christmas Service Practice Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship Children's Christmas Eve Service Children's Christmas Eve Service

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Accompanist

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Pastor Brock Groth

Harriet Langrehr



WiFi: SPLC_Guest Password: gracealone