



# The King Shall Come

**JUST AS GOD PROMISED**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI**

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*December 24, 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**

Heavenly Father, you promised a Savior long ago to Adam and Eve after they sinned. You reaffirmed that promise throughout the millennia and brought it to complete fulfillment in sending your Son. Reaffirm your promises to me today not just of my forgiveness but also of the promise that he will come back. Bring anticipation to my heart today that I can celebrate now as you promise I will then. In the King's 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

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*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.*

## CHOIR

*An Advent Hymn*

*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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

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## *The Word*

## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## HYMN

*309 The Advent of Our King*



- 1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.  
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.  
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.  
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day  
let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
the old self all be put away,  
the new self now put on.

- 6 All glory to the Son,  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one  
through all eternity.

## FIRST READING

*2 Samuel 7:8–16*

<sup>8</sup>"You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. <sup>10</sup>I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup>When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup>My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. <sup>16</sup>Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you—

according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past,

<sup>26</sup>but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—

<sup>27</sup>to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN

360 Behold, a Branch Is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

*Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.*

*Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 1:23

**Alleluia.**

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel.**

**Alleluia.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible for God."

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



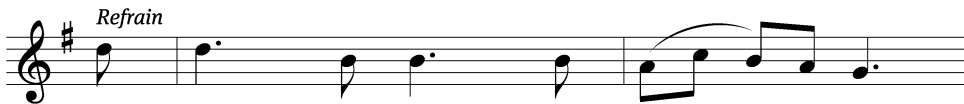
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.*

*Tune: French, 15th cent., alt*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## SERMON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

### David's House is Christ's House is Your House

*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

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on them and comfort them with your promises.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

*Brief intercessions may be added here.*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

# HYMN

## 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:  
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.  
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,  
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

*Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.*

*Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.*

*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

## 349 A Great and Mighty Wonder



- 1 A great and might - y won - der, a glo - rious mys - ter - y:
- 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate and yet re - mains on high,
- 3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, those bright an - gel - ic bands,
- 4 Since all he comes to ran - som, by all be he a - dored,
- 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish and Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



a vir - gin bears an in - fant who veils his de - i - ty.  
 and cher - u - bim sing an - thems to shep - herds from the sky.  
 re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, and o - ceans, clap your hands.  
 the in - fant born in Beth - l'em, the Sav - ior and the Lord.  
 and Christ shall raise his scep - ter, de - cree - ing end - less peace.

### Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry and peace to all the earth!"

*Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Germanus, c. 634–c. 734*

*Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599*

*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

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering Envelopes have arrived and are ready to pick up. You can find them organized (generally) alphabetically in the church basement.

## **ST. PAUL'S APPAREL**

St. Paul's apparel orders have arrived and are ready for pickup in the church basement. School families can find their orders in the office at school. If you need to arrange a special pickup of your order, please contact Pastor Groth. A few Redwings hats are also available for purchase. Contact Pastor Groth if interested.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY**

We will show a movie in the sanctuary during Sunday School time today. Sunday School and Sunday Bible study will return on January 7.

## **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](mailto:dana@arndtbuswellthorn.com) or 608-269-1200.

## **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!

## **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.

## **CHILI SUPPER**

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**OFFERING SUMMARY** (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00      Budget to Date: \$571,353.00  
Received Last Week: \$7,182.36      Rec'd to Date: \$408,889.63

**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

8:00 am: 106    Online Viewers: 40    10:00 am: 58    Total: 204  
Sunday Bible Study: 30    Sunday School: 4    Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 25

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**CALENDAR**

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
	4:30 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
	6:00 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Hymn Festival Service</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Worship

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**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Brock Groth
<b>Accompanist</b>	Irene Bakken
<b>Instrumentalist</b>	Micah Gray

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*Be lifted up*  
O ANCIENT DOORS



*that the*  
KING OF GLORY  
*may come in*





WiFi: SPLC\_Guest  
Password: gracealone

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