

# Good News of Great Joy



**PEACE ON EARTH**

First Sunday After Christmas

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

---

*December 31, 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**

Father in heaven, in many ways I have a lack of peace in this life. Wars rage on, stress is heightened by day-to-day news, and the future of my wellbeing physically, financially, and societally can distress my heart and mind. Calm my anxious heart today with the peace Jesus came to bring to me. Assure me that I have peace with you and that therefore any and all anxiousness is small by comparison and merely temporary. Give my mind rest in the knowledge of Christ born and successful for me. In his 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

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

363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.  
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty  
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Thou my Sav - ior art!   | Thou my Sav - ior art!   |
| draw me un - to thee!    | Draw me un - to thee!    |
| May we praise him there! | May we praise him there! |
| Oh, that we were there!  | Oh, that we were there!  |

*Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent.*

*Tune: German, 14th cent., alt.*

*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.**

## 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.**

## GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



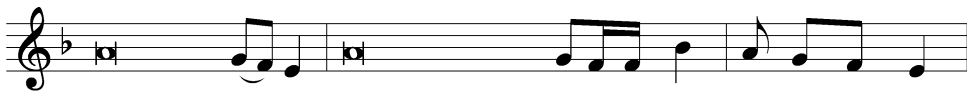
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



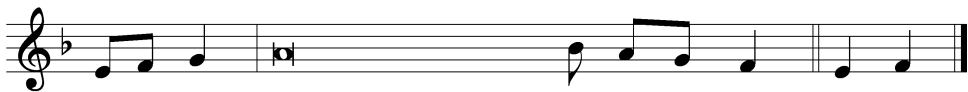
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

---

## *The Word*

### **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; 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

*1 Kings 8:6–13*

<sup>6</sup>The priests brought the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim, <sup>7</sup>for the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place for the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles with their wings. <sup>8</sup>The poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. They are there to this day.

<sup>9</sup>There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets, which Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup>When the priests came out from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the House of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>The priests were not able to take their positions to minister in the presence of the cloud, because the Glory of the LORD had filled the House of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he dwells in thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I have truly built a majestic house for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN

## 356 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,  
 this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,  
 and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

*Text: English, 18th cent.*

*Tune: English*

*Text and tune: Public domain*



## SECOND READING

*Colossians 3:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Luke 2:30,31*

**Alleluia.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations.**

**Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22–40*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(As it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.") <sup>24</sup>And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death

before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,  
<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup>Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup>Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

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

355 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies  
 form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who  
 hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.  
 glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

- 5 He serves that I a lord may be—  
 a great exchange indeed!  
 Could Jesus' love do more for me  
 to help me in my need,  
 to help me in my need?
- 6 For us he opens wide the door  
 of paradise today.  
 The angel guards the gate no more;  
 to God our thanks we pay,  
 to God our thanks we pay.

*Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6); tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, sts. 1–3, 5, 6, alt.; (st. 4); tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, st. 4*

*Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561*

*Text (st. 4): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889*

*Tune (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain*

**Peace, according to Your Word**

*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

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will praise you and extol your name.**

It is fitting, O Lord, in the final hours of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

**You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.**

You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

**You know what we need, and you give us all good things.**

Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

**We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.**

We thank you especially for your Word, which strengthens our faith, shields us from temptation, and equips us for service.

**Increase our commitments to this precious gift, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

**We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. Amen.**

## HYMN

358 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.  
 and ex - tol our God and King.  
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,  
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

*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.**


## CLOSING HYMN

## 361 Go, Tell It on the Mountain


*Refrain*




Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



*Refrain*

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain*

*Tune: African American spiritual*

*Text and tune: Public domain*



# *NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

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

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY**

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.

## **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: \$582,556.00 |
| Received Last Week: \$16,681.32 | Rec’d to Date: \$425,570.95  |

**LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE**

|                                    |                    |              |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| 8:00 am: 132                       | Online Viewers: 31 | 10:00 am: 67 | Total: 230 |
| Children’s Christmas Services: 294 | Online Viewers: 16 | Total: 310   |            |
| Christmas Day: 124                 | Online Viewers: 40 | Total: 164   |            |

# CALENDAR

|             |          |                               |
|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| TODAY       | 8:00 am  | Worship                       |
|             | 10:00 am | Worship                       |
| WEDNESDAY   | 3:30 pm  | Public School Catechism Class |
|             | 6:00 pm  | Education Committee           |
|             | 7:00 pm  | Church Council                |
| 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 | Pastor Brock Groth |
| Accompanist        | 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](http://www.wartburgproject.org) Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House..



WiFi: SPLC\_Guest  
Password: gracealone

---

**608-486-2754**

**401 16th Ave. N, Bangor, WI 54614**

**[stpaulsbangor.com](http://stpaulsbangor.com)**