

IT BEGINS WITH BAPTISM

First Sunday after Epiphany

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

January 7, 2024

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, your baptism in the Jordan River revealed who you truly are. The voice from heaven testified that you are the perfect Son of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our Savior. Today remind me that my baptism also testifies who I truly am to you. Give me strength today through the gracious connection to Christ given at my baptism, and bless me as I live for you in my baptismal grace. In Jesus my Savior 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.

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

376 Rise Up and Shine



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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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

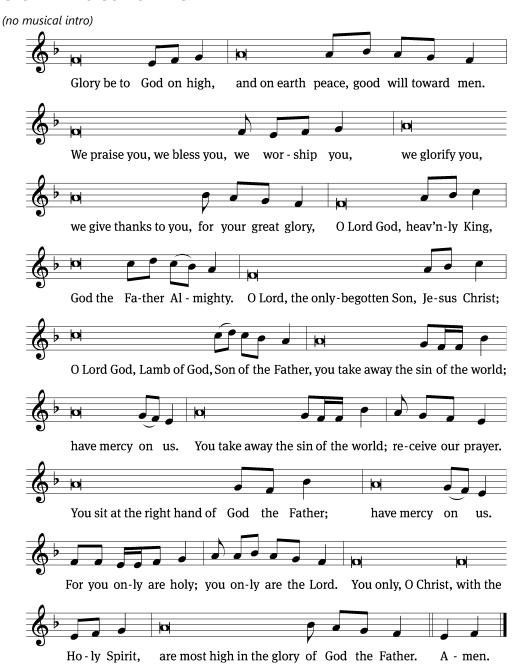


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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 49:1–6

¹Listen to me, you coastlands.

Pay attention, you faraway peoples!

The LORD called me from the womb.

When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.

He hid me in the shadow of his hand.

He made me a polished arrow.

He concealed me in his quiver.

³He said to me, "You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory."

⁴But I said to myself, "I have labored in vain.

I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.

Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD, and my reward is with my God."

continued...

⁵But now the LORD,
 who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
 to turn Jacob back to him,
 so that Israel might be gathered to him,
 so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD,
 because my God has been my strength—

 ⁶the LORD said:
 It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant
 to raise up only the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel

and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? ²Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? ³Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. ⁷For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. ¹⁰For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1:11

Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:4–11

⁴And John 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."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



HYMN OF THE DAY



- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight anointed Christ in glorious sight as God's own choice, from Adam's fall to save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ, our substitute! He was baptized in Jordan's stream, proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

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SERMON Romans 6:1-11

Dead to Sin, Alive to God—But How?

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

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).

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.



Lift up your hearts.

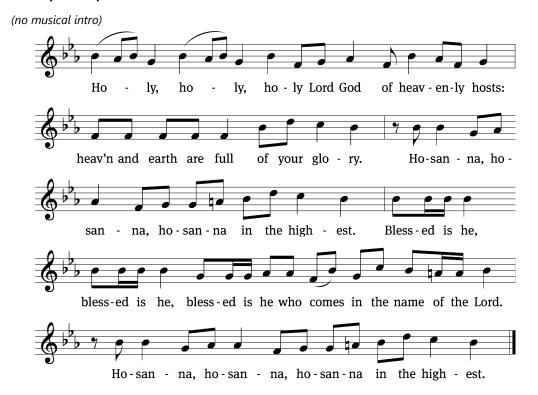


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by

the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



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.

(Soloist will sing verse 1. Join as comfortable.)



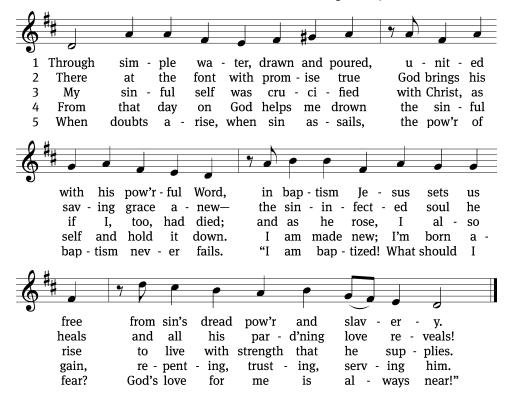
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

680 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735, abr. Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775 Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



Text: tr. Mark G. Schroeder, b. 1954; Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–1592, abr.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug
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Tune: Public domain

Stand

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.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

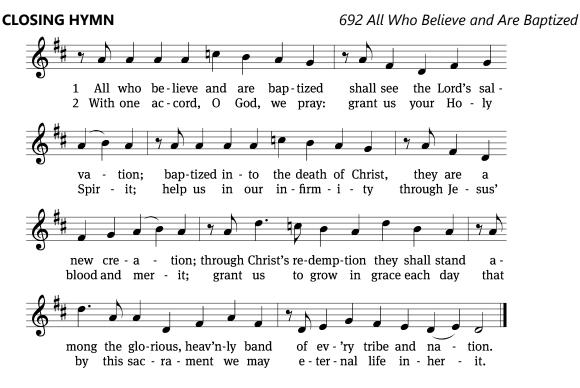
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703 Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524 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 return today in between services! God be praised for growth in his powerful Word!

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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY WEBINAR

Want to learn about using hospitality to reconnect with others at your church and also as an evangelism tool? "Reviving Relationships Through Biblical Hospitality," a new webinar from WELS Women's Ministry, will inspire you to rethink your relationships and get you thinking about your own church culture with new eyes. Panelists will talk about the importance of biblical hospitality in your home, at church, and even in public. The webinar will be held Thurs., Jan. 18, 2024, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CST). Learn more and register at wels.net/women.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING

Our Sunday School students will be singing at the 10:00 am service on January 28. Please have your child in Sunday School the next few weeks for practice. What a wonderful opportunity to let their light shine!

BIBLE BASICS CLASS

Our next Bible Basics class (also called the new member class or Bible Information Class) will begin Monday, February 5, at 6:00 pm. I ask that you block off 1.5 hours for each session, but usually it will be closer to 1 hour. Free childcare can be available upon request. If you or someone you know would be interested in taking the class, please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby or contact Pastor Groth at pastor@stpaulsbangor.com. Long-time members are also invited, as it's always a good refresher of the foundations of our faith. For more info on the class itself, visit stpaulsbangor.com/new/bible-basics.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00 Budget to Date: \$593,759.00 Received Last Week: \$14,417.53 Rec'd to Date: \$439,988.48

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Christmas Eve: 294 Online Viewers: 16 Total: 310 Christmas Day: 124 Online Viewers: 40 Total: 164

8:00 am: 95 Online Viewers: 50 10:00 am: 78 Total: 223

Sunday Bible Study: -- Sunday School: -- Tues./Wed. Bible Study: --

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 3:30 pm	Bible Study (same as Tues.) Public School Catechism Class
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am 9:10 am 9:15 am 10:00 am	Worship Sunday School Bible Study Worship

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Accompanist Pastor Brock Groth Irene Bakken

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