

## **ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY**

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

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*January 28, 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.

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## PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord of all, authority is always limited in scope and in duration—but not with you. You have dominion over all things in heaven and earth, and you rule over it all with your almighty power. Forgive me today for the times I fail to acknowledge or trust those facts. Show me again your authority not just in your commanding evil spirits but especially in your Word. Remind me of how you use your absolute authority: to bring salvation to souls like mine. In your authoritative name I pray. Amen.

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## 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.



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Presiding Minister**  
**Accompanist**

Pastor Brock Groth  
Harriet Langrehr

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# 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.*

**PREK-8 CHOIR** (8:00 am)

*All I Have Is Christ*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (10:00 am)

*God Loves Me Dearly*

*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*

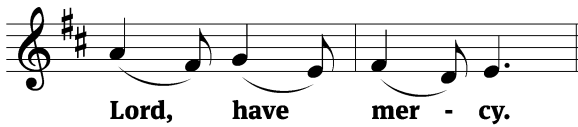
## DECLARATION OF GRACE

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.

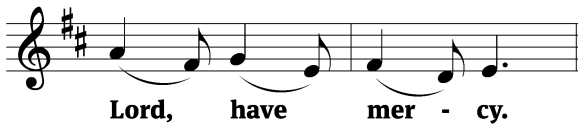
**Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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 TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Musical notation for the hymn "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST". It consists of seven staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens under the first and fourth notes of each line. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly".

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

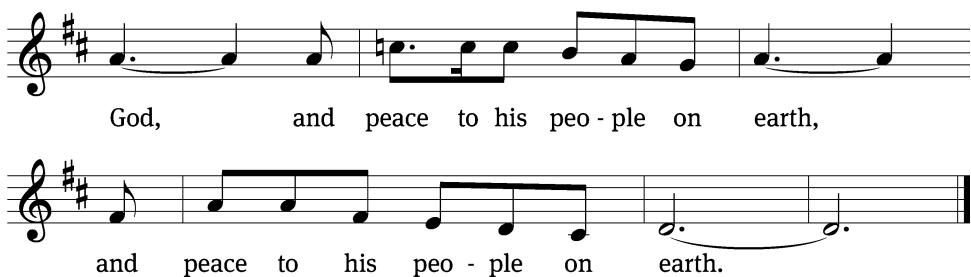
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



*Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman*

*Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889*

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## *The Word*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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*

### **INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** (10:00 am)

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

<sup>16</sup>That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him.

<sup>19</sup>Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. <sup>20</sup>Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 29B

*Vocalist(s) will sing verse 1. Join as comfortable.*



1 The voice which shakes the earth till moun-tains heave and quake,  
2 When God's ma - jes - tic voice round hill and val - ley rings,  
3 At his e - ter - nal throne a - wait the sol - emn sound,



the voice which caus - es an - cient oaks to bend and break,  
the des - ert blooms, the wood-land skips, the for - est sings:  
for no - where else will great - er strength or peace be found.



the voice which thun-ders loud a - bove the crash-ing waves  
his word pro-claims the truth like light-ning, sharp and bright,  
Ex - alt the God of pow'r, and kneel in rev-'rent fear—

be - longs to God, the Ho - ly One, the LORD who saves.  
with pen - e - trat - ing clar - i - ty and ten - der might.  
give glo - ry to the One whose voice we long to hear.

*Text: Martin E. Leckebusch*

*Tune: Hebrew*

*Text: © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130118835*

*Tune: Public domain*

## SECOND READING

*Hebrews 3:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, focus your attention on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. <sup>2</sup>He was faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in God's whole house. <sup>3</sup>In fact, Jesus is worthy of greater glory than Moses, in the same way that the builder of a house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup>For every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.

<sup>5</sup>Moses was faithful as a servant within God's whole house by testifying to the things that would be spoken. <sup>6</sup>But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. We are his house, if we hold on firmly to our confidence and the hope about which we boast until the end.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Mark 1:22*

**Alleluia!**

**The people were amazed at his teaching,  
because he taught them as one who had authority.**

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:21–28*

<sup>21</sup>Then they went into Capernaum. On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet! Come out of him!”

<sup>26</sup>The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. <sup>27</sup>Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!” <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

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

744 Rise, Shine, You People



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
To all the world go out and tell the  
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Tune: Dale Wood, 1934-2003

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**It's Not about the *What***

*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 Father, in Christ Jesus and through faith in him, we approach you with freedom and confidence. Mercifully hear our prayer.

As you caused your light to shine that first Epiphany, shine in the darkness of our hearts. Drive far from us all our fears and all our doubts.

**Give us a new confidence each day to live as children of the light.**

Bless the work of your church here and throughout the world. By your Holy Spirit, make known far and wide the mystery of Christ Jesus. Give strength to all workers in your gospel ministry, and bless the Word they proclaim.

**Bring those living in darkness into the light of life.**

Remember missionaries and mission workers who bring the light of Christ to distant lands. Provide for their families and all their needs. Bless their work and continue to gather for yourself people from the four corners of the world to live as children of the light.

**Renew our joy and give us new opportunities to make known the light of Christ.**

Give guidance and wisdom and strength and health to our government officials. Direct their rule for our good as it is pleasing to you.

**Give us hearts and lips that honor and respect those you have placed in authority over us.**

Remember those who are ailing in body or mind. [Especially bless...] Guide all who attend to their needs. Comfort your children and all those who love them.

**Assure them of your presence and your promise to be with them in all circumstances of life.**

*Special intercessions may be spoken here.*

These and all our needs are known to you, gracious Father. Mercifully hear our prayer. Guide us by the light of your Word until that day comes when you bring us home to yourself to join your people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

**In his holy name we pray. Amen.**

# HYMN

## 830 We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, no  
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, are  
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, but we be - lieve him near.  
 we re - joice and cry "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found.  
 and the Word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are with full and end - less sight.

*Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.*

*Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

*Text: Public domain*

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*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

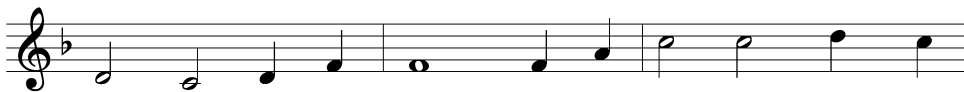
## 517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
 gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the  
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
 pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
 wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this  
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
 well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

*Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.*

*Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844*

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*Tune: Public domain*



# *NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY**

Today, we will study “**Silence before a Son.**” Doubting the angel’s announcement of his coming son, Zechariah finds himself silenced until the boy’s birth. Upon writing “His name is John,” Zechariah regains his voice and prophesies concerning his son’s work.

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

You can find copies of the 2023 Annual Report in the narthex.

## **CHILI SUPPER THANK YOU**

From the Grades 5-8 families: “Thank you for coming to our Chili Supper. We are so humbled by the outpouring support of our community.”

## **CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY**

Once every other year we seek input from the congregation regarding our ministry and its various facets. Your feedback is very much appreciated by the leadership and extremely valuable to the direction of our church. Please provide your **anonymous** input via the congregational survey that has been prepared. You can find it at the following URL (link provided in email News):

<https://forms.gle/PzEVxZUxt7uKsG3h6>. If you’d prefer, you can also find printed copies in the narthex and turn them into pastor or the church office.

## **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.

## **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](mailto: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](http://stpaulsbangor.com/new/bible-basics).

## **OFFER FROM CJ**

Dear fellow members of St Paul's, it is with great pleasure that I reach out and offer my snow removal service to you all and your friends and family. The rates will be as you chose is best. **All the money that is raised will be used to help me go to the WELS youth rally in Colorado this summer.** Any leftover money will go right back to the church for general use where they need it. Please text or call me with any questions or to schedule an appointment. 608-790-3820

## **ST. PAUL'S LADIES' PAINT NIGHT**

On Saturday, March 2nd, from 5:30-7:00 pm, all ladies of St. Paul's (and their friends!) are invited to join us in the church basement for an evening of painting with Katie Meyer, owner of The Art Room. No experience required! Participants will choose their own color pallet then add a botanical painting on top. The cost is \$25/person payable the evening of the event. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and we can enjoy an evening of painting and snacking together! Sign up is required by February 24th. Contact Heather Groth at (608) 351-1025 with any questions.

## **OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHER**

Luther High will be hosting an open house to showcase the new Industrial Arts Center on Saturday, February 10, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The building addition to the practical arts classroom was completed in early January. Students and teachers have been using the new classroom space. Attendees will be able to tour the practical arts classroom, see the new equipment, meet the instructors, and learn about the curriculum.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE GROUP**

Are you interested in getting to know other young adults in the area? Do you enjoy playing games? Do you want to dive into biblical topics with other young adults? Text Quinn Handy at (608) 615-0559 or email him at quinnhandyof7@gmail.com with the subject "Young Adults Group" to let him know you are interested in joining! The group will organize virtual Bible studies, play board games, set up group chats, organize meet-ups and other events, help you get connected with other young adults, and help each other grow in the faith as we strive to live according to God’s Word.

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

2024 Weekly Budget: \$11,826.00	Budget to Date: \$35,478.00
Received Last Week: \$6,144.16	Rec’d to Date: \$31,271.62

**LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE**

8:00 am: 113    Online Viewers: 42    10:00 am: 76    Total: 231  
Sunday Bible Study: 54    Sunday School: 9    Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 28

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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
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 pm	Bible Study
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion



WiFi: SPLC\_Guest  
Password: gracealone

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**608-486-2754**

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

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