



**ADVENT**  
**IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

**OF THE MESSIAH**

Third Sunday in Advent

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

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*December 14, 2025*

## **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**

Christ Jesus, fill me with joy this morning. I am a sinner, Lord, and I am in desperate need of salvation. Point me to the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament you fulfilled so that I can have full confidence that my sins are paid for, that you care about me deeply, and that your kingdom is an eternal kingdom of grace and rejoicing. Open my heart and my mouth today as I sing for joy for you. In you, Christ, 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.



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

Christian Worship '93

*The Service of the Word offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

**CHOIR** (8:00 am)

*A Tiny Child Will Come*

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

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CONFESSION

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

## ABSOLUTION

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

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# Prayer and Praise

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## OH, TASTE AND SEE

*(short musical intro)*

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score ends with a double bar line.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

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# *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 35*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will be glad.  
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.  
<sup>2</sup>It will bloom lavishly,  
and there will be great joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.  
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make the shaky knees steady.  
<sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart:  
    Be strong.  
    Do not be afraid.

*continued...*

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness,  
and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.

There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there,  
a road that will be called the holy way.

The impure will not walk there.

It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.

Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.

They will not be found there,  
but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.

They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,  
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Happiness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN

# 519 There Is a Redeemer



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope\_ for sin - ners slain.  
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in\_ that ho - ly place.



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

*Text: Melody Green, b. 1946*

*Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.*

*Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889*

# SECOND READING

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance

*continued...*

of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Matthew 11:10*

**Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL**

*Matthew 11:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## 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

### 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



- 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



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace  
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door  
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,  
who 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 day.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!  
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.  
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.  
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

**Praise Jesus We Get the John Treatment**

*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).*

**OFFERTORY***752 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings sts. 1, Ref, 2*

1 Gra - cious God, you send great bless - ings new each  
2 By your Word you formed cre - a - tion filled with



morn - ing all our days. For your mer - cies  
crea - tures large and small; as we tend that



nev - er end - ing, for your love we of - fer praise.  
end - less trea - sure may our care en - cir - cle all.

*Refrain*

Lord, we pray that we, your peo - ple who your



gifts un - num - bered claim, through the shar - ing



of your bless - ings may bring glo - ry to your name.

*Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946*

*Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1825; ed. William Moore*

*Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889*

*Tune: Public domain*

## 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. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

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

*Brief intercessory prayers 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

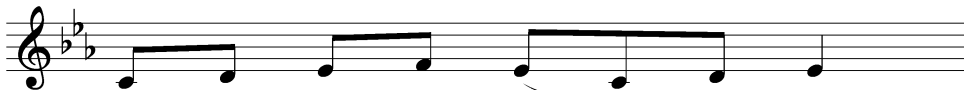
358 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*



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**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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**

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

## 313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES READY FOR 2026**

You can find the new offering envelopes for 2026 in the church basement organized (mostly) alphabetically by last name.

## **POINSETTIAS**

The poinsettias have been delivered to the church! If you ordered a flower for your home, you'll find it in the church basement. Each plant is labeled with your name. Please use caution in the cold weather—poinsettias are sensitive to low temperatures. Place your plant inside the bag provided and ensure it is kept in a warm vehicle during transport. The bags are in the church basement. Flowers that will remain in the church will be watered and cared for until after Christmas. After the holiday, please take yours home to enjoy.

## **MIDWEEK STUDY: DEFENDING THE FAITH**

*Defending the Faith* is a six-lesson apologetics Bible study to help Christians thoughtfully and lovingly engage in conversation with skeptics of the Christian faith. We do this using God's eternal truths as well as God's gift of reason, which is rooted in gentleness and respect. All this with the goal of love towards neighbor. May this study lead us to see apologetics as a ministry of caring for others!

## **STEWARDSHIP-EVANGELISM**

Members of the Stewardship-Evangelism Committee are asked to contact Zach Zebell or Pastor Groth regarding names to contact.

## **SCHOOL CUSTODIAN**

St. Paul's school is looking for a custodian to work part-time. If you or someone you know are interested in the position, please contact Blake Horstman at 608-461-2786.

## **BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS LUNCHESES?**

Our next Bible Information Class will begin on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, after second service at 11:30 am, and will continue each Sunday until Palm Sunday. We hope to serve lunch to the attendees as they study the Word with interest in joining our fellowship. If you would be willing to organize and serve lunch for one or more of these Sundays, please contact Pastor Groth.

## **BREAK FROM STUDIES**

We will take a break from our midweek studies the last two weeks of December and will begin our next midweek study on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. We will also take a break from our Sunday School and Sunday Bible Study on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> and will pick things back up on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

Well, the snow is here! Our great and stalwart snow removal team would appreciate a couple more teammates. If you are able to help, you would be on the schedule every 5 or 6 days. Or if you can only help on weekdays or weekends, the schedule can accommodate that requirement. If it doesn't snow on your day, you do nothing. If we get some additional team members, we could, depending on the weather and chances, reduce the number of days that you actually remove snow to 2 or 3 per year. If you are able to help, please call Dan Arndt at 608-343-4662.

## **PRAYERS**

This week we keep in our prayers: Brian Berg, Gary and Christa Lemke, Clarice Koltermann, Marcie Richmond, Herb Miller, Ron and Marilyn Meyer, Dan Chandler, Vivian Havens, Twyla Krueger, Chuck Melcher, and Kelly Langrehr.

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

2025 Weekly Budget: \$10,913.22	Budget to Date: \$534,747.78
Received Last Week: \$7,106.82	Rec'd to Date: \$396,285.32

## **LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

8:00 am: 93    Online Viewers: 61    10:00 am: 79    Total: 233  
Sunday Bible Study: 36    Sunday School: 15    Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 19

## **LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS**

The following is the list of men who have been nominated for service to the Lord at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (asterisk denotes an incumbent). Voting will take place at the **annual meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am.**

### **Church Council**

Brent Horstman  
Gary Lafky  
Todd Miller  
Bruce Wegner\*

### **Stewardship-Evangelism**

Ron Brown  
Troy Duerwachter  
CJ Havens  
Gary Horstman  
Steve Jandt  
Steve Kotek  
Mark Larson\*  
Gary Schomburg

### **Luther High Association**

(No expired terms this year)

### **Finance Committee**

Tyler Duerwachter  
Pat Fredrerick\*  
Jeff Garves\*  
Wayne Garves  
Dale Johnson\*  
Jeff Koltermann

### **Education Committee**

Kris Hammes  
Skylar Holzhausen\*  
Matt Garves  
Jordan Pfaff

# 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	Church 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
<b>NEXT WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Eve Service</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>NEXT THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Song Festival</b>

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Brock Groth

**Accompanist**

Irene Bakken

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WiFi: SPLC\_Guest  
Password: gracealone

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