

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our service we gather before Jesus our Savior to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God’s holy and powerful word. Also,

- f* Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- f* We love families! Your children are welcome in our service. Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children’s bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.
- f* Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- f* If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- f* For upcoming events and activities, “like” us on our Facebook page!

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

TODAY’S THEME:
THE DUAL MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Worship Participants

Liturgist and Preacher Pastor Jacob Hoff
Organist Mrs. Karen Pautz

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

MORNING PRAISE
Christian Worship pg. 45

THE OPENING HYMN “O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild”
Christian Worship #366

1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For sin - ners
 2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With God we
 3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy fills the

you be - came a child. You came from heav - en
 now are rec - on - ciled. You have for all the
 world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we have be -

to ful - fill Your Fa - ther's just and ho - ly
 ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's right - eous an - ger
 longs to you; Oh, keep us faith - ful, strong, and

will. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
 stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
 true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

Please Stand

M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.

C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

M: Has - ten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

M: (Christmas) Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of

our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a

great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are

in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he

made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and

bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Please be Seated

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 45:20-25

“Gather together and come;
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.
Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,
who pray to gods that cannot save.
²¹ Declare what is to be, present it—
let them take counsel together.
Who foretold this long ago,
who declared it from the distant past?
Was it not I, the LORD?
And there is no God apart from me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none but me.

22 Turn to me and be saved,
all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.

23 By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:

Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.

24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone
are deliverance and strength.'"

All who have raged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.

25 But all the descendants of Israel
will find deliverance in the LORD
and will make their boast in him.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....Psalm 111

Christian Worship pg. 106

The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain at the beginning
and repeat it as indicated.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song, for
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone

Great are the works of the LORD;*
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,*
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song, for
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone

The works of his hands are faithful and just;*
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;*
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;*
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON.....Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia! Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia! (Colossians 3:15)

Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 2:25-40

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:”

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Please be Seated



HYMN OF THE DAY "O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is"

Christian Worship #40



1 O Je - sus Christ, Your man - ger is
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, On him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain What glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;



My par - a - dise where my soul is re -
 Comes down to serve the sin - ner in great
 Be of good cheer and let no sor - row
 The Lord will give you for your earth - ly
 But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true



clin - ing. For there, O Lord, We find the Word
 meek - ness. Now God's own Son With us is one
 move you. For God's own child In mer - cy mild
 sad - ness. The an - gel host Can nev - er boast
 treas - ure. To him hold fast Un - til at last



Made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 And joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 Joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!
 Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 A crown is yours and hon - or in full meas - ure.

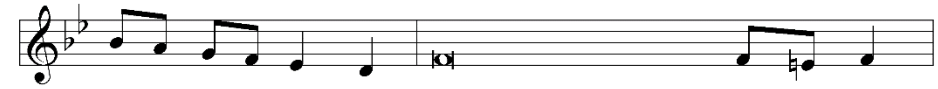
THE SERMON Luke 2:25-40

Please Stand

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD



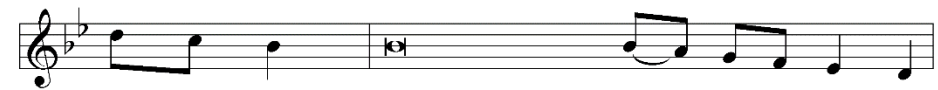
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



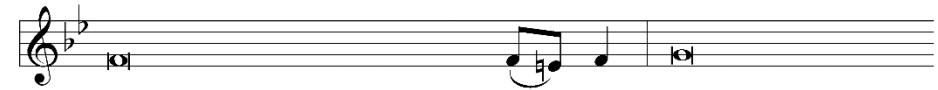
Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



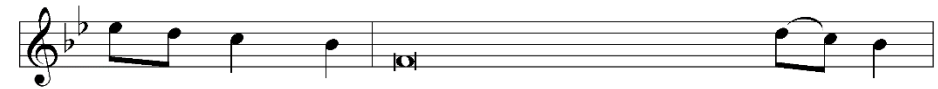
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



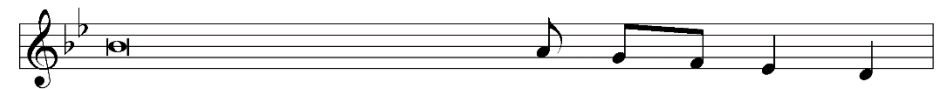
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



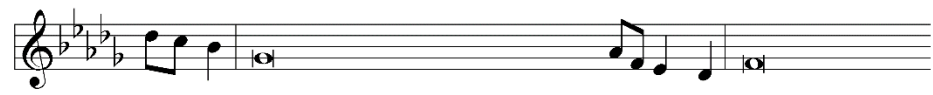
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



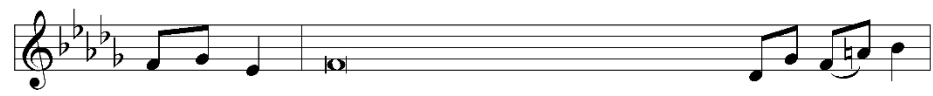
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



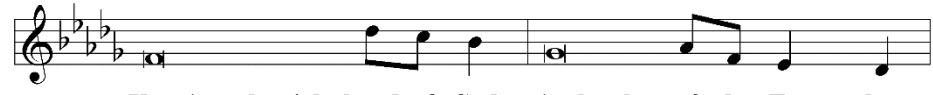
glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Please be Seated

THE OFFERING

(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

LORD HAVE MERCY



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

Please be Seated

ALL THE ENDS OF THE
SEARCH HAVE SEEN
THE SALVATION OF OUR
GOD

CLOSING HYMN "O Light of Gentile Nations"

Christian Worship #78



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O
2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In
3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You
4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's
ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has
seem to hide your face, And through our tears we
Sim - con to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -
prom - ised That we should see your face. To -
of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then
ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O



to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with
day you still al - low us Who gath - er
be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in
Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in



rev - 'rent mind As Sim - con once had
round you here In arms of faith to
pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est
peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.
hold you As did that a - ged seer.
ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.
Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES: The 2018 Offering Envelopes are in the hallway outside of the Bible classroom. If you contribute electronically and do not need a set of envelopes, please let the office know.

NO JANUARY 1st WORSHIP SERVICE: Please note, there will be no worship service tomorrow evening, Monday, January 1st.

GREETERS: Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year! Please let the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We need additional greeters for all services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form in the Greeter bin on the narthex counter by the end of December.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY FOOD BANK COLLECTION: The Christmas season is full swing. One of the ways we celebrate God's gift of Jesus is by giving gifts ourselves. This year we would like to gather "gifts" to send to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Bank. The Food Bank is run to assist married students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These students work part-time jobs around their classes, intensive studying, and preparation. We would love to help them out as they try and make ends meet to provide for their families while preparing to tell the next generation about Jesus. From now until the end of December you can bring in your "gifts" and place them by the designated table in the main school hallway. Following is a list of most needed items:

- Rice, Flour & Sugar
- Laundry Detergent & Paper Towels
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Baby Food
- Pasta Sauce & Canned Tomato Products
- Macaroni & Cheese & Pasta
- Cold Cereal & Oatmeal
- Toilet Paper

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER? If you answered yes, did you know you have grant money and Choice dollars that can be used at St. Paul's? We can show you how you can help St. Paul's by using grant money and directing your Choice dollars. If you're not a member and would like to still be able to help, you can still get grant money by signing up to be an associate member. On January 7th and 8th between services, Stacy, our congregational advocate for Thrivent will have a table set up for questions. Also, Stacy

and Thrivent will be holding some informational meetings for you to come and hear how to use grants, help you sign up to be an associate member and help on directing Choice dollars. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM in the Bible Study room. Dinner will be provided. Feel free to come to one of the informational meetings to see how you can help. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Boldt at (262) 470-7253.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible Camp will be held July 9-13, 2018! Registration will begin in late spring.

USHERS NEEDED: We have re-organized our crews and have open spots where we could really use ushers! Please prayerfully consider becoming an usher for your church – your help is greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please contact Kyle Brightsman at (414) 335-2906 or kgb5217@gmail.com.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER: The Early Childhood Enrichment Center is now accepting registration for the 2018-2019 school year. In order to enroll, children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2018. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan and Mrs. Nancy Willms at (414) 421-1833. Enrollment opportunities will be opened to the community after February 1, 2018.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: We are studying the topic: "Idols We Never Knew We Had." A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess. Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say "Definitely not! I don't bow down to idols!" But sometimes we do worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. Our upcoming study will bring to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God's guidance and power we'll get help to avoid worshiping these false gods. Please come and join us. We begin at 8:00am. Breakfast is also served. Below is our schedule:

Idols We Never Knew We Had:

Technology – January 13, 2018

Politics – February 10, 2018

Family – February 24, 2018

Religion – March 10, 2018

PRESCHOOL POWER HOUR: Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Open to children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Meet us in the church narthex from 10:45-11:45 AM on the following dates: January 11th & 25th, February 8th & 22nd, March 8th & 22nd, April 12th & 26th and May 10th & 24th. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information. There are also extra copies on the narthex counter to pass along to a friend!

CREATION MUSEUM TOUR: Friends of Wisco are invited to attend a special bus tour to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Ky., June 7-10, 2018, hosted by WLHS president Pastor Ken Fisher and WLHS Foundation executive director Kristine Metzger. We expect the trip to fill up fast, so consider making this an early Christmas present to your spouse, yourself, or a family member! Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Cost and registration details can be found at www.wlhs.org/creationtour.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE (December 31)

9:00 AM – sign up to be a greeter!

6:30 PM – Don & Marge Gebert

GREETERS NEXT WEEK (January 7 & 8)

8:00 AM – Connie Myer

10:30 AM – Marilyn Krueger

6:30 PM – Donna LaBlanc

USHERS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser

6:30 PM – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Nolan Romeis, Randy Raduenz, Luke Raduenz

USHERS FOR JANUARY

8:00 AM – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Philip Becker

10:30 AM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski

6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

Dec 27-Jan 2 – TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer

Jan 3-9 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Marilyn Krueger, Renate Nazimek

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Dec 31: Happy New Year!

Jan 7: Stay tuned for the new schedule

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 31

Worship Service9:00 AM

NO Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Information Class

New Year's Eve Worship 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 2

NO PSCIC

Wednesday, January 3

School Resumes8:15 AM

Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Men's Open Gym 7:30 PM

Friday, January 5

School Devotion8:30 AM

Sunday, January 7

Worship Service with Communion8:00 AM

Adult Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Information Class.....9:15 AM

Worship Service with Communion10:30 AM

Statistics – Last Week

Christmas Eve: 9:00 AM – 140, 6:30 PM – 181, 10:00 PM – 179

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM – 142

Total Attendance – 642