elcome! 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,

- *t* Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- *t* We love families! Your children are welcome in our service. Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus!
- *t* Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- *t* If you want to review or share today's service, you can find it on our website.
- *t* For upcoming events and activities, "like" us on our Facebook page.

Please come again and worship with us very soon!

Worship Participants

Liturgist and Preacher	Pastor Brian Adams
Organist	Miss Heather Schmidt
Violinists/Piano	

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

THE COMMON SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Christian Worship pg. 15

Please Stand

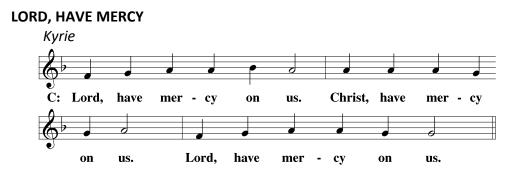
THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



THE CONFESSION OF SINS

- **P:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.



P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

GLORY BE TO GOD



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be Seated

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10-14

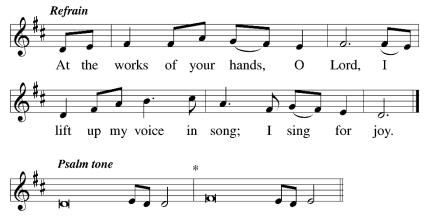
The Lord promised that deliverance would come through the gift of Immanuel. And how would we recognize him? He would be born of a virgin.

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Christian Worship pg. 98



I will sing of the LORD'S great love for<u>ev</u>er;* I will make your faithfulness known through all gener<u>a</u>tions.

I will declare that your love stands firm for<u>ev</u>er,* that you established your faithfulness in heav<u>en</u> itself.

The heavens praise your won<u>ders</u>, O LORD,* your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the <u>ho</u>ly ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?* You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness sur<u>rounds</u> you.

Blessed are those who have learned to ac<u>claim</u> you,* who walk in the light of your pres<u>ence</u>, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name <u>all</u> day long;* they exult in your <u>right</u>eousness.

Psalm continues on next page



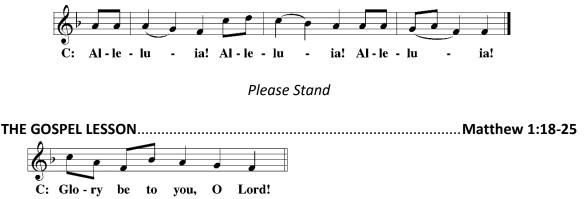
Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (*Matthew 1:23*)



In faith, Joseph accepted that within the womb of his bride-to-be was Immanuel—the very Son of God, the promised Savior from sin.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



THE NICENE CREED

- 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 fully 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.

Please be Seated

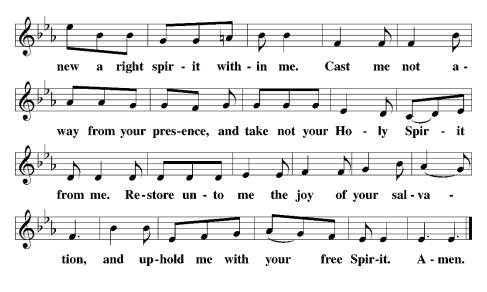
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY......""Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" Christian Worship #23



THE SERMON Matthew 1:18-25





Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

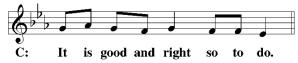
P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts

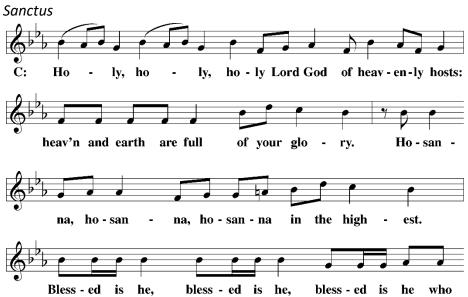


P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



P: 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:







WORDS OF INSTITUTION

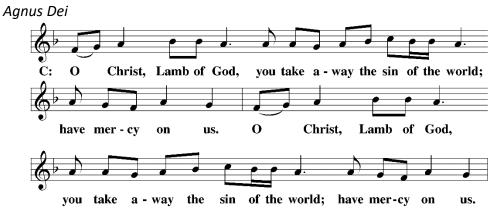
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

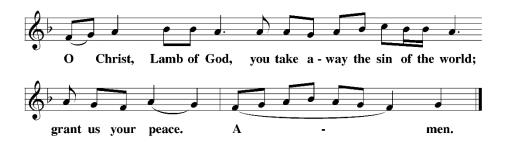
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD





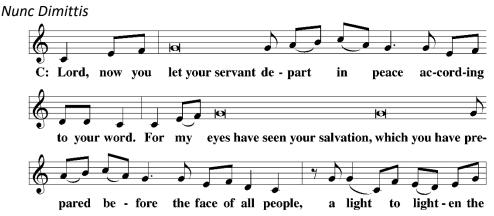
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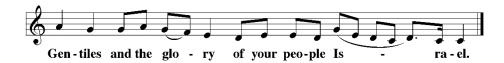
DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a miracle. By God's power, the Lord's body and blood are with the bread and wine. In the Lord's Supper, God gives strength and comfort to His believers. While the Lord's Supper is first about our relationship with Jesus, it is also about our relationship with fellow believers. Therefore, we practice "close communion." We invite all who are members of St. Paul's or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. If you would like to learn more about being a member of our family at St. Paul's, please feel free to contact the pastor.

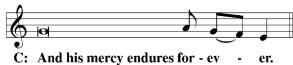
Please Stand

SONG OF SIMEON





P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



CLOSING PRAYER

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. 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.



THE BLESSING

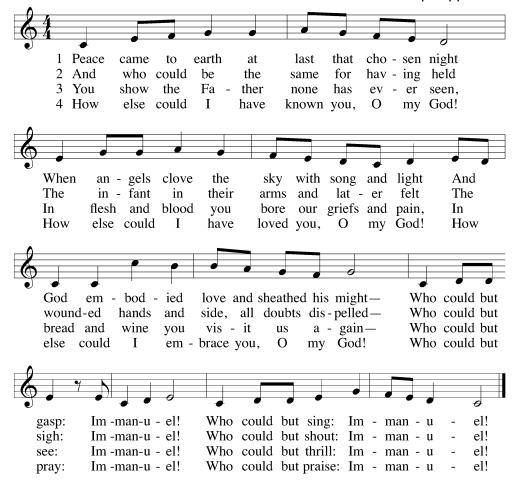
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



Please be Seated

"Peace Came to Earth"

Christian Worship Supplement #707



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THE CLOSING HYMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend's altar flowers are given by Randy & Nancy Willms in thanksgiving for the 22nd anniversary of Randy's liver transplant.

BUDGET UPDATE: Contributions in 2022 through November 30th are continuing to be below our budgeted fiscal 2023 needs. We are currently approximately \$60,000 behind our budget. Our operating cash continues to be tight since we have not met our 2023 budgeted needs. Currently our weekly average of contributions is \$11,421, with a total of \$251,267 contributed through November 30th.

Contribution budget to date: \$311,547 Actual contributions to date: \$251,267 Behind budget: \$60,280

SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES UPDATE: Thank you for your ongoing support of Southside Ministries. Although COVID has had a large impact on our work, we have kept going as much as possible. Your donations of clothing, food items, and furniture has been constant. We have continued our ESL tutoring throughout COVID, even when St. Peter's facilities were closed. One of our volunteers hosted the weekly tutoring sessions at his home. We have a steady group of children coming for help with their homework and other activities. Many of the students have been coming for more than five years. We have not only had the opportunity to help them with their studies but also help them to learn about Jesus through our Bible studies.

We are having a door collection today for purchasing items to build Christmas gift bags for the immigrant children. St. Paul's has generously supported this effort for the last 12 years. Each bag contains apples, oranges, peanuts, and candy. Christmas joy is a perfect description of the reaction of the children receiving them.

Also on my Christmas list are toys and Christmas trees. We give out the toys at our Christmas party December 26. I you have any new or gently used toys they would be greatly appreciated. In past years, we've been able to give many artificial Christmas trees to families for their homes. You can put them in the collection barrel in the hallway or call me at 414-870-9215.

Thank God that he has brought them here. The families are extremely grateful. – Gary Eickhorst

THANK YOU: Thank you to the Board of Elders for providing the meal in between our Advent worship services on December 7th!

MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP: There will be no Monday evening worship on Monday, December 26th or the following Monday, January 2nd. We will resume Monday evening services on Monday, January 9th.

TEACHER CALL: On Monday, December 5th the Voters of the congregation approved the recommendation to call a 1st grade teacher (combined 1st/2nd in the afternoons) for the 2023-2024 school year. We called Mrs. Stephanie Liepert, currently teaching at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Waukesha. We received this letter from Mrs. Liepert: To the members of St. Paul's, On Monday, December 5, I received a divine call to serve as your first and second grade teacher. I am honored and humbled by this call. I look forward to learning more about the ministry being carried out at St. Paul's from your church and school leaders as I consider the two calls before me. Please keep my family and the ministries of St. Paul's and Mount Calvary in your prayers as I deliberate where I can best serve. In Christ, Stephanie Liepert

(sliepert@mountcalvarywaukesha.org)

MARY & MARTHA CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE UPDATE: A huge thank you to everyone who donated cookies to the sale and also to all those who purchased cookies. \$866.00 was raised through the cookie sale and will help fund the ongoing work of Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

ADVENT 2022: The Latin word *adventus* means "coming." The last words in Scripture are "Come, Lord Jesus!" Thus, the season of Advent begins with the end in mind. We enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this



sin-broken world. Yet, we know that Jesus has come into our world once before. The Son of God became the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. As this new Church Year walks us through the entire life of Christ, we see God's promises of deliverance fulfilled... God's plan of salvation completed. And so, when Christ comes again, while the universe will be destroyed, we know God's people will be ushered into a new, glorious, everlasting kingdom.

Advent prepares us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!

Advent 1 – Come, Lord Jesus! - as King – November 27 & 28 Advent 2 – Come, Lord Jesus! - as Judge – December 4 & 5 Advent 3 – Come, Lord Jesus! - as Messiah – December 11 & 12 Advent 4 – Come, Lord Jesus! - as Immanuel – December 18 & 19

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY: We will begin a new Adult Bible Study on Sunday, January 8th. This class will be hosted by retired Pastor Andy Backus. We will be studying the current week's scripture readings. We meet in between services (9:15 AM) in the Bible classroom and all are welcome to join us!

CLASSROOM WISH LISTS: In past years we've had a Christmas tree in our school lobby full of "wishes" for our classrooms. Once again our list is digital! If you would like to grant a classroom wish, please scan the QR Code on the poster in the narthex, or you can find it <u>here</u>. If you aren't able to shop online, you can make a donation using the envelopes on the narthex counter! Thank you for your support of our school!

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: St. Paul's has offered assistance to families through a "forgiveness program" in which the congregation has taken on the debt for part of their tuition. On average we have been able to help 10-12 families seek Christian Education here at St. Paul's through this method. What a great gift to share the love of Christ with others using the gifts God has granted us. We have a need and an opportunity to help families and we are asking you to help financially. In addition to your offerings, these additional funds will help support the education for families that may not otherwise be able to afford it. We thank you for considering and remind you of the words recorded in Matthew 25:40 *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* If you would like to give, please fill out the envelopes provided on the narthex counter and place in the offering tower.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE: We are in the process of updating our church directory. Please take a moment to fill out the yellow contact slips on the narthex tables and return them to the bin on the narthex counter. Thank you for your help in keeping our records up to date!

MEN'S WELS BASKETBALL LEAGUE: The area WELS churches are starting up the men's basketball league again. St. Paul's is looking for interested players, college age and older, who want to be part of our energetic team. The league will run on Sundays from January 8th through March 26th, 2023 with games at several different area gyms. If you are interested in being part of the SPF team, please contact Caleb Manske with your interest by December 19th at caleb.manske@rasmith.com or 262-442-4286.

MEN'S OPEN GYM: Men's Open Gym will held Thursday nights from 7:30 - 9:00 pm every week starting December 8th. All college age and older men interested in stretching their legs are invited to participate. Please be sure to watch the Weekly Schedule at the end of the church bulletin every week for updates or cancellations as we approach the Christmas Season.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE: During the upcoming holiday season there are many opportunities for worship! Please join us!

Children's Christmas Service (K5-Grade 8) – Sunday, December 18th at 4:30 PM Preschool & Junior Kindergarten Christmas Service – Friday, Dec. 23rd at 11:00 AM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Saturday, December 24th at 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Saturday, December 24th at 10:00 PM Christmas Day Service – Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion – Sunday, Jan. 1st at **10:00 AM** (one service only)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE: There are 16 people meeting every other Tuesday with continued lessons on the book "The Narrow Lutheran Middle". Note we will not meet on December 27th as previously scheduled. New dates are January 3, January 17, January 31, February 14 and February 28. It is never too late to join our group. Just tell Jean Terek or Lucy Ellenberger.

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS: A new Bible Information class has begun! We meet at 9:15 AM (between the two worship services). The purpose of the class is to present the basic teachings of the Bible as well as to introduce you to the rewarding life of Christian discipleship. This class is open to anyone interested in learning more about our church, considering joining our church or anyone who would like to refresh their knowledge of God's Word. Anyone is welcome to join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children ages 3 – Grade 6 are invited to join our Sunday School class, which meets each Sunday at 9:15 AM! Class is located in the After School Care room of the school.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SCHOOL - K4 Aide - Classroom Aide - After School Care: St. Paul's is blessed to have a great PreK program! We are looking for a teacher's aide to support our growing enrollment numbers. There are also other classrooms that would benefit from a part-time aide.

We are also looking for an individual or individuals that could help with our After School Care program. If you are available for a single day, a few days, or all days please get in touch with us. It is a great opportunity to connect with some of our students and help our families that are unable to pick their children up right away after school.

If you are interested in supporting your school by giving us a hand, please reach out to Principal Schulmeister by email at <u>nschulmeister@stpaulsfranklin.org</u> or by phone at 414-421-1930.

WLHS WINTER BAND CONCERT: The Wisconsin Lutheran High School band department will present their Winter Concert on Sunday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Seating is general admission with a free-will door offering, and will also be livestreamed at <u>wlhs.org</u>.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Gordy Lesser, Adrian Boldt
10:30 AM – TEAM #8 – Walter Falkowski, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha, Scott Seymer
6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 PM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Gordy Lesser, Adrian Boldt **10:00 PM** – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Luke & Randy Raduenz

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM – TEAM #3 – Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Todd Grunze, Frank Krajewski

ALTAR GUILD

December 14-20 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee December 21-27 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

December 18: Set-up – Don Druml & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Beverly Garves December 25: *Merry Christmas!*

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 18

17	
Worship Service with Communion	8:00 AM
Sunday School/Bible Information Class	9:15 AM
Worship Service with Communion	10:30 AM
Children's Christmas Service	4:30 PM

Monday, December 19

Public School Confirmation Class	5:00 PM
Lutheran Girl Pioneers	6:00 PM
Worship Service with Communion	6:30 PM

Thursday, December 22

Men's Open Gym) PM
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Friday, December 23

Preschool Christmas Service	11:00 AM
Half Day of School – Noon Dismissal	12:00 PM

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	4:30 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	

Sunday, December 25

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 81 10:30 AM – 72 6:30 PM – 32 Total Attendance – 214