

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,

- † Restrooms are down the hall and to the right from the back of church.
- † Our congregation stands at various times throughout the service. If your mobility is limited, please do not feel that you have to stand. You are welcome to remain seated!
- † We love families! Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus!
- † Please fill out the Friendship Registers located at the end of each row.
- † If you want to review or share today’s service, you can find it on our website.
- † 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 Jim Aderman
Pianist Miss Lauren Roedel

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD - *Christian Worship pg. 38*

THE OPENING HYMN“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

Christian Worship (21) #308



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The — val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like the flow'rs of the field they — per - ish; like
He shall feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and — pomp of
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our — God — may go!
na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way.
lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Please Stand

THE INVOCATION

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

C: **And also with you.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: 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.

C: **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.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

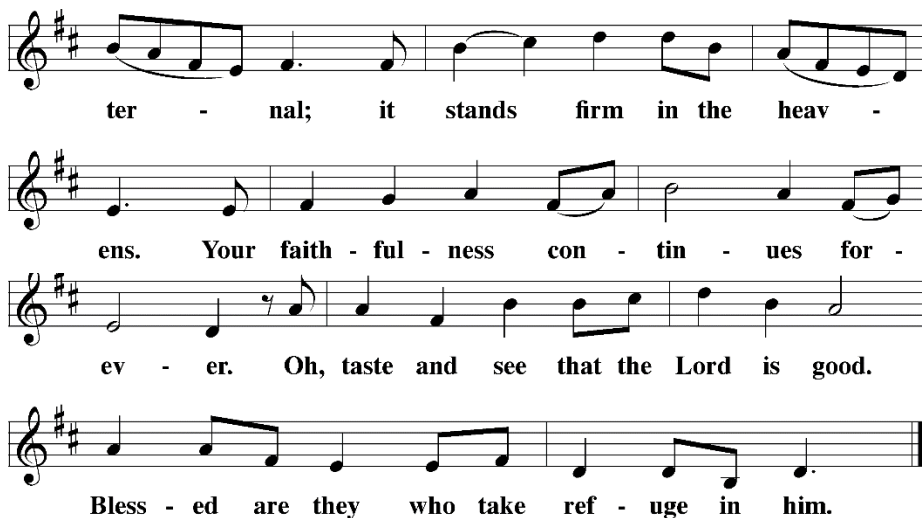
OH, TASTE AND SEE



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Please be Seated

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON **Malachi 3:1-7b**

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY.....**Psalm 24**

Christian Worship pg. 73

Refrain

Let the Lord en - ter; he is the King of glo - ry.

Psalm tone

*

The earth is the LORD’S, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.

Psalm continues on next page

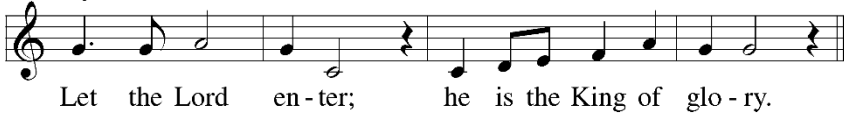
Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*

Who may stand in his holy place?

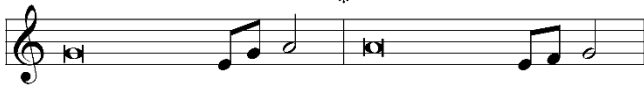
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*

he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain



Psalm tone



Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON..... **Philippians 1:3-11**

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 3:1-6

In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.’”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be Seated

THE HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Christian Worship (21) #316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

THE SERMON **Philippians 1:3-11**

"A prayer for Advent"

I pray this:

- that your love will keep on growing
 - in knowledge
 - and every kind of discernment,
- so that you
 - may approve the things that are superior
 - and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ,
- filled with the fruit of righteousness that
 - comes through Jesus Christ
 - to the glory and praise of God

Please Stand

THE 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.

Please be Seated

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

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

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

Please be Seated

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Comfort, Comfort All My People"

Christian Worship (21) #312



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Please Stand

P: 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.



THE BLESSING

P: 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.



Please be Seated



CLOSING HYMN "Arise, O Christian People"

Christian Worship (21) #310 vs. 3-4



3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
side, and help me to re - ceive you this



haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Thank you to Pastor Jim Aderman for leading us in worship this weekend! Pastor Aderman wears many kingdom hats – a consultant to 316NOW, a member of the core leadership team for Men of His Word-Milwaukee, and the chairman of the Spiritual Warfare Committee (a subcommittee of the WELS Special Ministries Division) and has also written a book on the role of complaining when Christians have cancer. <https://online.nph.net/god-can-i-complain.html>.

THANK YOU: Thank you to Lauren Roedel for playing piano for our worship services these last two weekends. Lauren is a former St. Paul's student now in her senior year at Wisconsin Lutheran High School.

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend's altar flowers are given by Andy & Chris Backus in memory of Robert Pocza's birthday on December 11th.

DOOR COLLECTION: We will be taking a door collection for Southside Ministries this Sunday, December 8th. Thank you for your generous support this year and over the last 15 years. St. Paul's has provided a steady stream of donations of furniture, clothing, food, and monetary gifts. This has allowed us to make a big difference in the lives of Burmese immigrants and the local neighborhood around St. Peters. We tutor children on Mondays throughout the year and have a food pantry that distributes one weekend a month. This has always helped families but with the inflation of the last four years it's been needed more than ever. Today's door collection will help create gift bags for the children at Christmas time and to provide some special Christmas treats for the food pantry bags. We will be having a Christmas party for the children we tutor on Monday, December 30. Any unneeded toys or Christmas decorations donated in December are very much needed and appreciated. I have several times experienced the joy of delivering a Christmas tree to a house with small children that have never had a tree. We have always had several gifts for each child at the Christmas party and have had a wonderful time. All of this is made possible by your generosity. If you have any questions, please call Gary Eickhorst at 414-870-9215.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING: We would love more help with decorating the church for Christmas today after the 10:30 AM service. The more hands we have helping, the better!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES & MEAL: This Wednesday, December 11th we will be having our Midweek Advent worship services at 3:30 PM & 6:30 PM. Junior Choir will be singing at our 3:30 PM service. The Board of Elders will also be serving a meal in between the services beginning at 4:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend the meal, even if you didn't sign up! We'd also love for you to bring a dessert if you are able!

SAVE THE DATE: We will be celebrating Pastor Adams' 30th anniversary at St. Paul's with a luncheon following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, January 19th. More information will be coming soon!

MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE: Our annual Mary & Martha Cookie Sale is taking place next weekend, December 15th & 16th. Cookies will be sold before and after services. Each box is \$10.00. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

CLASSROOM WISH LISTS: In past years we've had a Christmas tree in our school lobby full of "wishes" for our classrooms, but now our tree is digital! If you would like to grant a classroom wish, please scan the QR Code on the poster in the narthex, find it [here](#), or you can donate using the blank envelopes on the narthex counter and we will do the shopping! Thank you for your support of our school!

PASTORAL CARE: Should any pastoral needs arise while Pastor Adams is recovering, please contact the office.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: Retired Pastor Andy Backus is leading our Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. The Bible is full of different people that are part of God's plan of salvation. These people are filled with stories. Some of the people in the Bible are well-known; some are not. Over the next weeks, we will look at some of these people and the stories that they tell. We may even find that some of these stories could be found in your life today. Please come and join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE: A signup sheet is located on the narthex counter for anyone in the congregation who is interested in making Christmas cookies for the annual Mary & Martha cookie sale. Please consider baking a batch of cookies (100 cookies if possible) for this sale. Please have your cookies labeled "Mary & Martha cookie sale" and dropped off at church by 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 14. Anyone from St Paul's is welcome to come and help pack the cookie boxes on Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 AM. The sale will take place at each service on Sunday, December 15th & Monday, December 16th. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

NO PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS: We will be putting our Public School Confirmation Class on hold while Pastor Adams is recovering from surgery. Watch for a new start up date soon!

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

Advent Service – Wednesday, December 11th at 3:30 PM and 6:30 PM (supper in between)

3K & 4K Christmas Service – Friday, December 20th at 11:00 AM

Worship Services – Sunday, December 22nd at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*No Monday evening Worship on December 23rd

Children’s Christmas Service (K5-Grade 8) – Sunday, December 22nd at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24th at 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Service – Wednesday, December 25th at 10:00 AM

Worship Service – Sunday, December 29th at **9:00 AM** (one service only)

*No evening New Year’s Eve Worship

CHRISTMAS AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY: Join the seminary chorus for *Christmas at the Seminary*, a service of lessons and carols, at 3:00pm and 7:00pm in the campus auditorium on Sunday, December 8, 2024. The annual Christmas concert includes anthems by the choir and hymns for the congregation. There are no advanced ticket sales; a free will offering is appreciated. The seminary is located at 11831 N. Seminary Dr., Mequon.

WLHS WINTER BAND CONCERT: The Wisconsin Lutheran High School band department will present their Winter Concert on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome to attend. The concert will also be livestreamed at wlhs.org/livestream.

LUTHER PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Join LPS on Sunday, December 15th at 3:00pm or Thursday, December 19th at 10:00am for their Christmas Concert in the gym. 1300 Western Ave, Watertown. Or watch on livestream by visiting lps.wels.net/apps/pages/lpsconcertsstream

WLHS SACRED CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The WLHS Fine Arts Department presents their Sacred Choral Christmas Concert, “Glory to God in the Highest”, on Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. The free, general admission concert will feature A Cappella and Freshmen choirs, String Ensemble and Jubilation handbells.

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 MIDWEEK ADVENT

- 3:30 PM** – 7th & 8th Graders
- 6:30 PM** – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Brandon Wirtz, Gary Boldt

ALTAR GUILD

- December 4-10 – TEAM #4 – Marge Gebert, Renate Nazimek, Sarah Carabacan
- December 11-17 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

- December 8: Set-up – Tony & Mary Tripoli, Clean-up – Kevin & Debbie Swanson
- December 15: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Carl & Carolyn Streeter

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 8

- Worship Service.....8:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study.....9:15 AM
- Worship Service.....10:30 AM
- Church Christmas Decorating.....11:30 AM

Monday, December 9

- Worship Service.....6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 10

- Church Council.....6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 11

Midweek Advent Worship Service 3:30 PM
Midweek Advent Meal 4:30 PM
Midweek Advent Worship Service 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 15

Worship Service with Communion.....8:00 AM
Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM
Worship Service with Communion.....10:30 AM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance:

Thanksgiving Eve Service – 103
8:00 AM – 76, Communed – 62
10:30 AM – 85, Communed – 68
6:30 PM – 23, Communed – 21
Total Attendance – 184
Total Communed – 151