

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 Pastor Brian Adams
Preacher Pastor Wayne Shevey
Organist Mrs. Kris Karnopp

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Christian Worship pg. 38

THE OPENING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Christian Worship (21) #333



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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.**

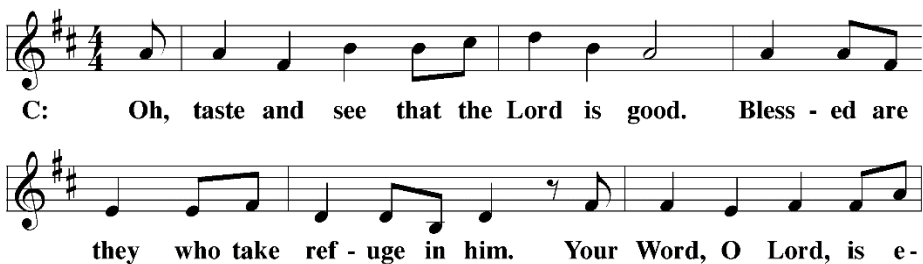
P: God, our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

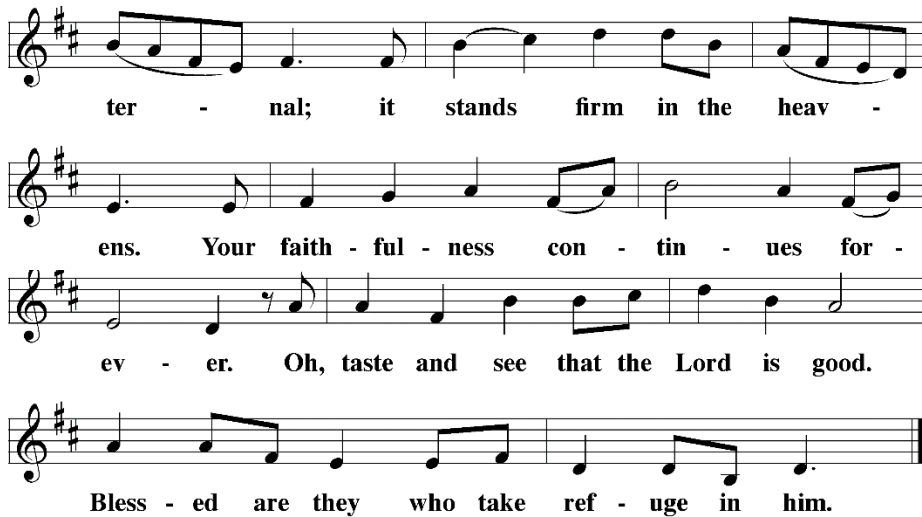
P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 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.



C: A - men.

Please be Seated

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON **Micah 5:2-5a**

The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up. There a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 though you are small among the clans of Judah,
 out of you will come for me
 one who will be ruler over Israel,
 whose origins are from of old,
 from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
 until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
 and the rest of his brothers return
 to join the Israelites.


⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
 in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they will live securely, for then his greatness
 will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace
 when the Assyrians invade our land
 and march through our fortresses.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY **Psalm 85**

Christian Worship pg. 97

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Psalm continues on next page

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

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..... Hebrews 10:5-10

We could not possibly raise ourselves up to God. So, the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy. Christ has lifted up the lowly.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”

⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. 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 1:39-55

In Spirit-wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

⁴⁶And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be Seated

THE HYMN OF THE DAY.....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Christian Worship (21) #327



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

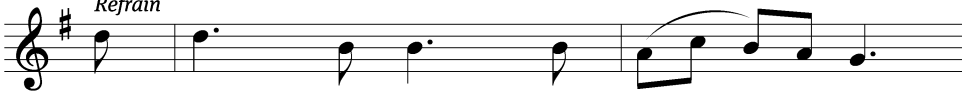


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

THE SERMON Hebrews 10:5-10

“The Best Gift Only Comes Around Once”

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 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Christian Worship(21) #328



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

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 **“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”**
Christian Worship (21) #315 vs. 1-2, 5-6



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
 5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from
 6 And, when you shall come a - gain as a glo - rious



kept his word and at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y_a year
 doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,
 king to reign, I with joy may see your face,



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 safe - ly kept through life and death,
 free - ly ran - somed by your grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Thank you to Pastor Wayne Shevey for sharing God's word with us today! Pastor Shevey serves as Campus Pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend's altar flowers are given by Randy & Nancy Willms in thanksgiving for the 24th anniversary of Randy's liver transplant.

BAPTISM: This Thursday, December 26th Charles Bradley Alcorn will be received into God's kingdom through holy baptism. Charles is the son of Bradley & Michelle Alcorn. Serving as his godparents are Nicholas Manyen and Alexis Allor. May the Lord bless this family as they grow together in Christ.

NO ADULT BIBLE CLASS: There will be no Adult Bible class today or next Sunday. Class will resume in January.

HEATHER SCHMIDT HEALTH UPDATE: Dear Members of St. Paul's, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord..." (Jeremiah 29:11) Sometimes God has plans for us that we do not understand, but we trust that, in His wisdom, it will work out for our good. In November, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The good news is that it was caught early and is very treatable. The bad news is that it will affect my ability to play organ for church and be in the classroom at times moving forward. I will be having surgery on December 23 with radiation to follow once I have recovered from surgery. I have worked with the faculty and church leadership to come up with a plan for covering my absence. Hopefully, I will only need to miss a week or 2 from teaching and a few weeks from playing. At this point, I just ask for your prayers and patience! I have peace knowing that our Savior has overcome this world and is in control! "I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2) If you would like to reach out, you can email me at hschmidt@stpaulsfranklin.org or text 262-391-1056. In Christ, Heather Schmidt

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES: The adult 2025 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the tables in the west hallway of church. If you do not see a set with your name on it, please contact the office. Children's envelopes have not yet arrived.

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR ADAMS: 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. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the narthex counter or online [here](#). To help with planning, please sign up by January 5th. We are also asking everyone attending the meal to bring a non-perishable food item that will be used to help re-stock the St. Peter's Food Pantry for the winter months.

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!

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

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

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 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

4:30 PM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz &
TEAM #6 – Bob Duchesneau, Nathan Riel, Randy LaPorte

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

4:30 PM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Gordy Lesser, Adrian Boldt

10:00 PM – *open*

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

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

ALTAR GUILD

December 18-24 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

December 25-31 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

December 22: Set-up – John & Jean Terek, Clean-up – Andy & Chris Backus

December 29: Set-up – Pete & Sherry Kosovich, Clean-up – Beverly Garves

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 22

Worship Service.....	8:00 AM
Worship Service.....	10:30 AM
K-8 Children’s Christmas Service	4:30 PM

Monday, December 23

No School / No Worship

Tuesday, December 24

No School – Christmas Break

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	4:30 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	10:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25

No School – Christmas Break

Christmas Day Worship	10:00 AM
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Thursday, December 26

No School – Christmas Break

Friday, December 27

No School – Christmas Break

Sunday, December 29

Worship Service.....**9:00 AM**

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance:

8:00 AM – 83, Communed – 73

10:30 AM – 75, Communed – 59

6:30 PM – 31, Communed – 28

Total Attendance – 189

Total Communed – 160