

**W**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,

- † 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 Jon Kruschel  
**Pianist** ..... Miss Moriah Carabacan

## OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

THE OPENING HYMN ..... **“Once In Royal David’s City”**  
*Arrangement by Koine (Video)*

1. **Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.**
  
2. **He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**
  
3. **But our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heav’n above,  
As he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.  
Where he is gone.**
  
4. **Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see him, but in heaven,  
Set at God’s right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned,  
All in white, his praise shall sound.  
His praise shall sound.**

*Please Stand*

## THE INVOCATION

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

**C:** Amen.

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

**P:** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C:** **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

**P:** Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C:** **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**P:** Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**C:** Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*Please be Seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON ..... Isaiah 50:4-9**

*The Servant of the LORD spoke through the prophet Isaiah. As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.*

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. <sup>5</sup> The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.

<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. <sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me?

Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

**RESPONSIVE PSALM..... Psalm 111**

**P:** Praise the Lord.

**C:** **I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

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

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

**P:** He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

**C:** **the Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

**P:** He provides food for those who fear him;

**C:** **he remembers his covenant forever.**

**P:** He has shown his people the power of his works,  
**C:** **giving them the lands of other nations.**

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

**P:** They are established for ever and ever,  
**C:** **enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.**

**P:** He provided redemption for his people;  
**C:** **he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.**

**P:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
**C:** **all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

## **THE SECOND LESSON..... Hebrews 2:10-18**

*Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.*

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

<sup>12</sup> He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” <sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” <sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful

and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

**P:** Alleluia. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. Alleluia.

*Please Stand*

### **THE GOSPEL LESSON..... Luke 2:41-52**

*Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God's holy Word.*

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

<sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

<sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

## 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*

CONGREGATION HYMN ..... "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"  
*Arrangement by Koine (Video)*

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Hymn continues on next page*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE SERMON ..... Luke 2:41-52

**THE OFFERING & 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*

CONGREGATION HYMN ..... "The Lord is My Salvation"

*Arrangement by Keith & Kristyn Getty (Video)*

The grace of God has reached for me  
And pulled me from a raging sea  
And I am safe on this solid ground  
The Lord is my salvation

I will not fear when darkness falls  
His strength will help me scale these walls  
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun  
The Lord is my salvation



**Who is like the Lord, our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the victory won  
The Lord is my salvation**

**My hope is hidden in the Lord  
He fulfills each promise of His Word  
When winter fades, I know spring will come  
The Lord is my salvation**

**In times of waiting, times of need  
When I know loss, when I am weak  
I know His grace will renew these days  
The Lord is our salvation**

**Who is like the Lord, our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the victory won  
The Lord is my salvation**

**And when I reach my final day  
He will not leave me in the grave  
But I will rise, He will call me home  
The Lord is my salvation**

**Who is like the Lord, our God?  
Strong to save, faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the victory won  
The Lord is my salvation**

**Glory be to God the Father  
Glory be to God the Son  
Glory be to God the Spirit  
The Lord is our salvation**

**Glory be to God the Father  
Glory be to God the Son  
Glory be to God the Spirit**

**The Lord is our salvation  
The Lord is our salvation  
The Lord is our salvation**

*Please Stand*

**THE CLOSING PRAYER**

**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 death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**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.

**C: Amen.**

**THE CLOSING HYMN** ..... **“Joy has Dawned”**

*Arrangement by Keith & Kristyn Getty (Video)*

**Joy has dawned upon the world  
Promised from creation—  
God’s salvation now unfurled  
Hope for ev’ry nation  
Not with fanfares from above  
Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love—  
Jesus born of Mary**

Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life  
Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place  
Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast  
Vuln'erable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb  
Gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands  
Prophecy the story  
Gold—a King is born today  
Incense—God is with us  
Myrrh—His death will make a way  
And by His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam, Son of heaven  
Given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man  
Christ, our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a Friend!  
What a glorious myst'ry!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem  
Now the Lord of hist'ry

**Gloria in excelsis Deo / Gloria in excelsis Deo**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
He whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

**Gloria in excelsis Deo / Gloria in excelsis Deo**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to Pastor Jon Kruschel for leading us in worship today! Pastor Kruschel serves at Star of Bethlehem in New Berlin.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to Miss Moriah Carabacan for playing piano in today's service. Moriah is a 2024 graduate of St. Paul's Lutheran School!

**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 also arrived!**

**MARY & MARTHA COOKIE SALE:** Our annual Mary & Martha Cookie Sale brought \$800.00 in sales plus a member donation of \$50.00 for a total of \$850.00. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary & Martha Society and their support of missions.

**ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR ADAMS:** We will be celebrating Pastor Adams' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at St. Paul's with a luncheon following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**ST. PAUL'S GUEST SPEAKER:** Join us on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM for a presentation by a Pastor Associate from Institutional Ministries focusing on PTSD and dealing with trauma.

**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. In our study 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! **We will start class back up next Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. We invite everyone to start the New Year by diving deeper into God's Word with us!**

**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 JANUARY**

**8:00 AM** – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Brandon Wirtz, Gary Boldt

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

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

**ALTAR GUILD**

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

January 1-7 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE**

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

January 5: Set-up – Don & Marge Gebert, Clean-up – Kevin & Debbie Swanson

**THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 29**

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

**Monday, December 30**

No School / No Worship

**Tuesday, December 31**

No School / No Worship

**Wednesday, January 1**

No School – Christmas Break

**Thursday, January 2**

No School – Christmas Break

**Friday, January 3**

No School – Christmas Break

**Sunday, January 5**

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

**Statistics – Last Week**

Attendance:

8:00 AM – 73

10:30 AM – 78

Total Attendance – 151

Special Service Attendance:

Children’s Christmas Service – 412

Christmas Eve Candlelight 4:30 PM – 241

Christmas Eve Candlelight 10:00 PM – 96

Christmas Day 10:00 AM – 59