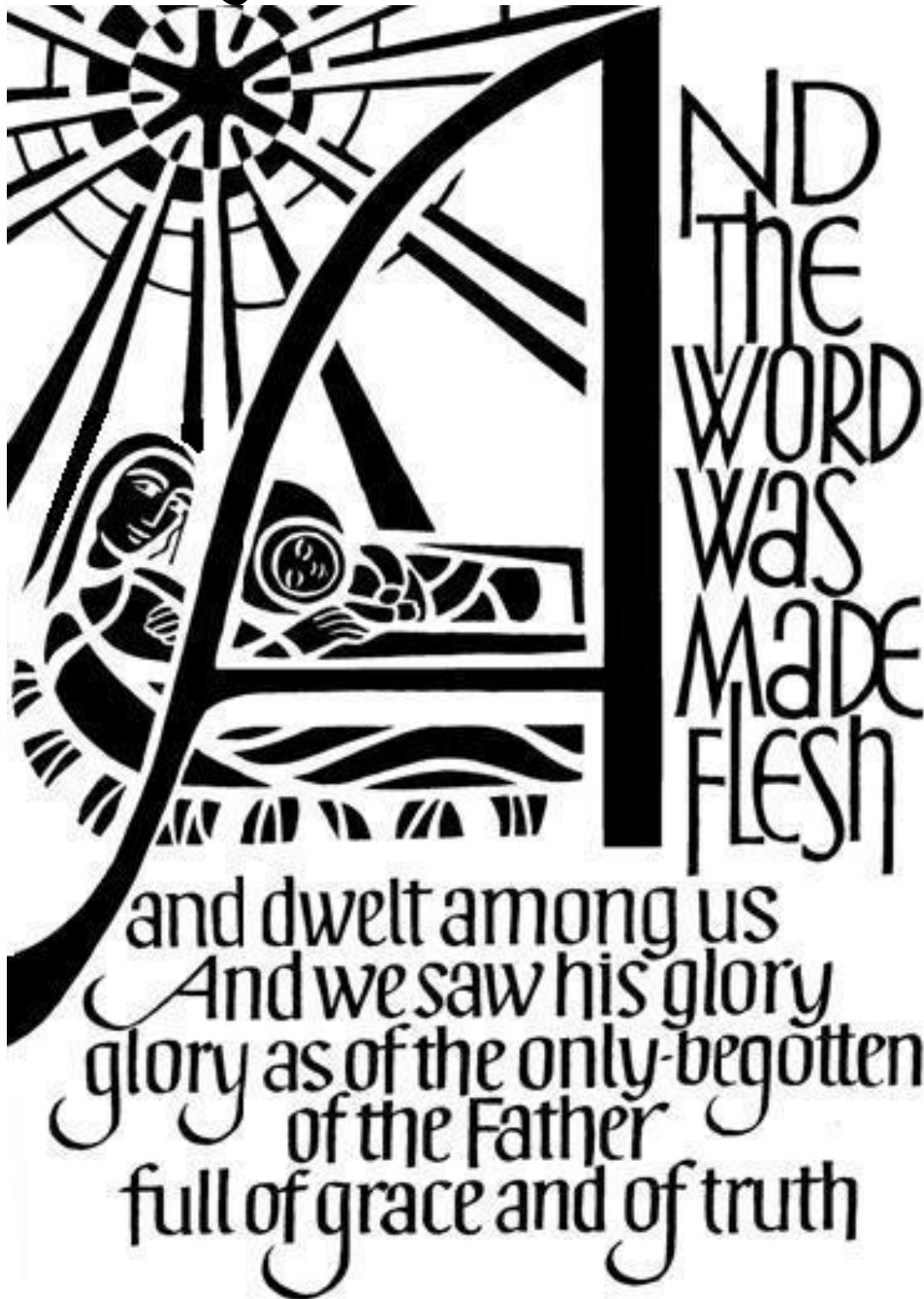


*St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church*



1010 Adams Avenue
North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com
(920) 922-1080

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
North Fond du Lac, WI

Monday, December 25, 2023
9:00 AM

Welcome! Today our readings raise us up above the cute and the trite and the trivial, for so many people that is all that Christmas is about. But there is nothing trite or trivial in what has happened today. The deepest lowliness is but the mask for the greatest glory, the glory of Him who came to be our Savior!

Today's Service: The order of worship today is printed beginning on the next page of this service folder. Hymns not printed in the service folder may be found in *Christian Worship: A Hymnal*. With the exception of the opening dialogue, today's service is based on the traditional liturgical order of service commonly used in the Lutheran Church. The major songs and canticles of the service have been replaced with Christmas hymns that reflect the thoughts and words of the usual songs in our service.

Learn more about St. Paul's: Should you wish to learn more about our congregation or our synod, please feel free to ask one of our Pastors. Pastors Kampman and Ehlert would love to answer any questions you might have. You can also grab one of our church, school, or preschool brochures from the narthex information centers. Please ask an usher or a greeter to help you find them.

Restrooms & Child Training Room: Should you need them our restrooms are located to your right as you exit the sanctuary (church proper). Also, to the right as you exit, you'll find our child training room which parents can use to calm or feed their children. It is equipped with a volume-adjustable sound feed, dimmable lights, and privacy shades on the windows that look out to the sanctuary.



GREETING & INVOCATION ¹

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful | CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

¹ The name of the Triune God & the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptism & all the blessings God gives us there. (Matthew 28:18-20)

OPENING SENTENCES

from various portions of Scripture

Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:9-10

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.**

Titus 3:4-5

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

He is Christ the Lord!

Luke 2:10-11

St. Paul's Choir

A Virgin Most Pure
arr. by Kenneth Kosche

CONFESSION OF SINS ²

Please stand

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of Life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from Your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus sake.

² “The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners.” [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?] (cf. John 20:21-23)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

Lord, have mercy!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Christ, have mercy!

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Lord, have mercy!

ABSOLUTION ⁴

On this day, we rejoice in the truth that a Savior has been born to us! He has done away with sadness! *Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved* (Ephesians 2:4-5). Hear the word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please be seated



³ *Kyrie* is the Greek word for Lord. The expression “Lord have mercy” is one of the oldest responses in the Christian Church (cf. Psalm 51 & Luke 18:13).

⁴ cf. comments on Confession of Sins on page 1.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Angels We Have Heard on High | CW 346
(Incorporating the Gloria in Excelsis)⁵



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
Tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

⁵ *The Gloria in Excelsis* (Latin for “Glory [to God] in the highest”) is a centuries old song of praise sung at the beginning of Christian services. The angels first sang those words Christmas Eve to the shepherds (cf. Luke 2:14).

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Please stand

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

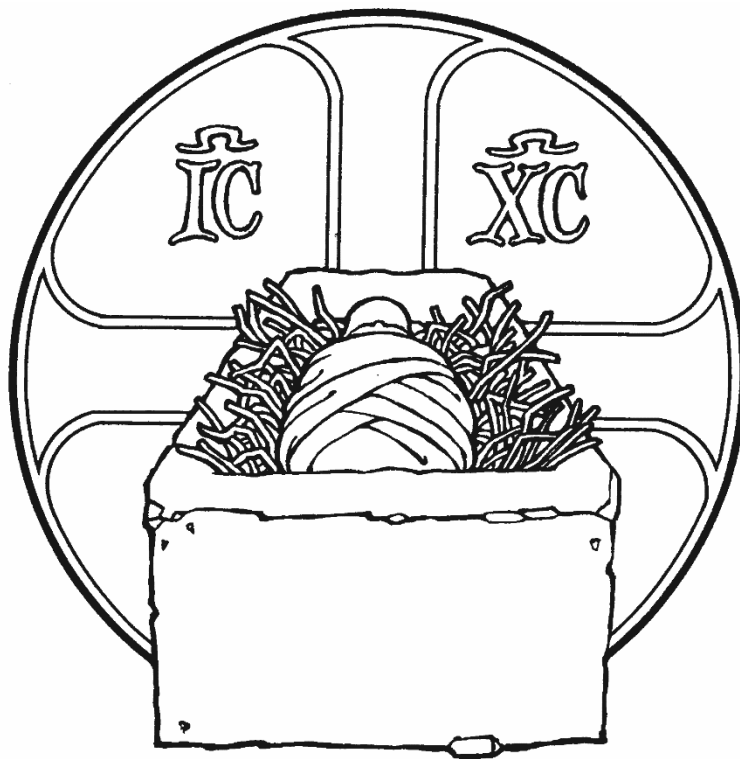
Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

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 gives birth 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 their peace.





1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

⁶ The First Lesson is normally followed by a psalm. This Christmas hymn is based on the words of Psalm 98, the Psalm appointed for Christmas Day.

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

HYMN ⁷

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | CW 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th’ in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th’ an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847
Text and tune: Public domain

⁷ The Verse of the Day or the Gospel Acclamation are usually sung here. It is hard to conceive of a more fitting song or verse than that sung by the angels.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18 (*Please Stand*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. ¹¹ He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. ¹² Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' " ¹⁶ From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, Who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

Please be seated



HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten | CW 358



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348 - c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818 - 1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821 - 1877, alt.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Text: John 1:1-18 (printed above)

Good News! Great Joy!
The Word, our God, became flesh for US!!

After the sermon, please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Excerpts from the Athanasian Creed ⁸

It is necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith.

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and He is man, born in time from the nature of His mother,

fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh.

equal to the Father as to His deity, less than the Father as to His humanity;

and though He is both God and man, Christ is not two persons, but one,

one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;

for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,

so God and man are one Christ.

for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,

so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

This is the true Christian faith.

Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Please be seated

⁸ Athanasius was a staunch defender of the faith in the fourth century. He assisted the church in defending against two heresies. One denied that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other denied that Jesus was true God and true man in one person.

OFFERING

The majority of what we do here at St. Paul's is funded by offerings from God's people. Whether worship, education, or the regular visiting we do for members, your generosity makes it possible. We appreciate your generosity this Christmas season!



*There are visitor cards located in each pew. If you want to learn more about St. Paul's, please fill one out and our pastors will be in contact with you. As the offering is brought forward, **please stand** for prayer.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling Your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending Your Son to be our Savior, we give You our heartfelt thanks and praise.

Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

Isaiah 9:6

What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though He is the all-powerful Lord of all, He is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Help us always believe that this precious Child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the Child.

Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to You, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Please be seated

LORD'S PRAYER

set to the tune of *Silent Night* | CW 337

played by Jack Jerman
sung by Isabelle Kampman

*Father dear, bend Your ear. Heav'n's Your throne, You our own.
Holy be Thy glorious Name. And Your Kingdom come to reign.
Daily bread grant to us, in this build our trust.*

*Son of God, Christ our Lord In Thy blood, a cleansing flood.
Freed, forgiv'n, and now Your own In our lives may this be shown.
Sin forgive thru Your cross! Sin forgive thru Your cross!*

*Be with us still in all ill Temptations flee, deliver me.
For the kingdom and power are your own.
Glory eternal upon Your throne.
Let it be so. Amen! Let it be so, Lord. Amen!*

CLOSING PRAYER

Please stand

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving kindness You sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through His life, death, and resurrection, You have given us pardon from sin and peace in this fallen world and for eternity. We also pray that You continually rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day in the lasting joy of Christmas, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

AARONIC BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

On this Christmas Day and always ...

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is | CW 342



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 at which I am re - clin - ing.
 comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.
 the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.
 but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
 Now God's own Son with us is one
 For God's own Child in mer - cy mild
 The an - gel host can nev - er boast
 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 mea - sure.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. PERMISSION NOT OBTAINED

Tune: Public domain

We are thankful this Christmas that you have joined us in worship.

We regularly worship together each weekend.

This coming week, we will gather on Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am as we continue to rejoice in the majesty of Christmas.

We will also gather at 6:30 pm Sunday (12-31) to bring in the New Year together, gathered around the Word and the Holy Supper of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are also thankful for those who laid their talents at the altar of our God as we worshipped together today.

Our Organist

Will Hinn

Our Instrumentalists

Wendy Holmes, Kaitlyn Kampman, and Marcus Tadych

Our Choir

Directed by Kathy Thurow and accompanied by Becky Miller

We practice on Mondays at 6:00 pm.

Lord's Prayer Soloist

Isabelle Kampman

Lord's Prayer Pianist

Jack Jerman

Worship Schedule This Coming Week

Regular Weekend Worship

Saturday at 6:30 PM and Sunday at 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship

With the Lord's Supper

Sunday at 6:30 PM





St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

Proclaiming Christ to more people more often!

Traditionally rich and yet speaking to the hearts of the people of today, our worship is always focused on the saving Word of our God and what it means for you each day.

Bible classes and Sunday School are specifically designed to get you thinking about what God says about any number of timely topics as we dive into the Bible together.

Groups like Women In God's Service, Boys and Girls Pioneers, and our Christian Education Society not only seek to provide service opportunities for those involved but also opportunities for fun and fellowship as the family of Christ gathers together.

Our school provides a high-quality education with an eternal focus for children from preschool through 8th grade and beyond through our synodical associations. As a private parochial school, we offer a curriculum that unapologetically holds out the truths of Scripture in every subject from religion to science and from social studies to physical education.

We would love to talk about everything St. Paul's can offer you and far more importantly, everything our God has done and continues to do for you. Check us out online at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com or call the office at (920) 922-1080 to get the conversation started.

We are excited to talk about how you can become part of the family here at St. Paul's.



St. Paul's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
Find out more about what the Bible teaches at www.wels.net.