

*"My eyes have seen  
your Salvation!"*



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Howards Grove, WI  
December 27 & 28, 2020



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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a  
Congregation in the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Worship during these times:** We offer distanced seating on one side of the sanctuary. We also encourage compliance for all who are able to wear a face covering to honor God's representatives in our state government. Door handles and pew backs are cleaned between Sunday services. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which should be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

**Communion** is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

**DVDs:** DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.**



## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**This Week's Focus:** *This 1st Sunday in Christmas commemorates the baby Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna were finally able to see the promised Messiah for whom they had been waiting. God kept his promise to Simeon. Anna told others who were waiting on the Lord. The LORD foretold through Isaiah that he would bring about salvation. He alone is a righteous God and a Savior. There are two great miracles in Christmas: one is that God has become man to save us; the other is that he reveals the first miracle to me by his grace and gives me all its blessings by faith. My eyes have seen your salvation!*

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### WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

*O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild* | 366

- 1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
For sinners you became a child.  
You came from heaven to fulfill  
Your Father's just and holy will.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
- 2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
With God we now are reconciled.  
You have for all the ransom paid,  
Your Father's righteous anger stayed.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!
- 3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!  
Joy fills the world which sin defiled.  
Whate'er we have belongs to you;  
Oh, keep us faithful, strong, and true.  
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild!

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

M: 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.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Gracious Father, in your great love for the world you have given us the gift of your only Son as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel. Open our hearts to receive him and sanctify our lives to proclaim your grace through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

SOLO

*Rose of Bethlehem*

There's a Rose in Bethlehem with a beauty quite divine, perfect in this world of sin, on this silent, holy night. There's a fragrance much like hope, that it sends upon the wind, reaching out to every soul from a lowly manger's crib.

*Refrain:* Oh, Rose of Bethlehem, how lovely, pure and sweet. Born to glorify the Father, born to wear the thorns for me.

There's a Rose in Bethlehem colored red like mercy's blood. 'Tis the flower of our faith, 'tis the blossom of God's love. Though its bloom is fresh with youth, surely what will be he knows. For a tear of morning dew is rolling down the Rose. *Refrain*

There's a Rose in Bethlehem with a beauty quite divine, perfect in this world of sin, on this silent, holy night. *Refrain*

## THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 45:20-25*

*There is no God apart from the LORD, our righteous God and Savior, in whom we exult.*

<sup>20</sup> "Gather together and come;  
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.

Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,  
who pray to gods that cannot save.

<sup>21</sup> Declare what is to be, present it—  
let them take counsel together.

Who foretold this long ago,  
who declared it from the distant past?

Was it not I, the LORD?

And there is no God apart from me,  
a righteous God and a Savior;  
there is none but me.

<sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved,  
all you ends of the earth;  
for I am God, and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn,

my mouth has uttered in all integrity  
 a word that will not be revoked:  
 Before me every knee will bow;  
 by me every tongue will swear.  
<sup>24</sup>They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone  
 are deliverance and strength.'"'  
 All who have raged against him  
 will come to him and be put to shame.  
<sup>25</sup>But all the descendants of Israel  
 will find deliverance in the LORD  
 and will make their boast in him.

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

*Psalm 111*

*Great are the works of the LORD. He provided redemption for his people.*

*Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

*Psalm tone*



Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
 they are pondered by all who delight in them.  
 Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
 and his righteousness endures forever.  
 He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
 the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

*Refrain*

The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.  
He provided redemption for his people;\*  
he ordained his covenant forever.  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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*

*Please stand.*

## **GOSPEL**

***Luke 2:25-40***

*Simeon and Anna saw the long-awaited Christ and rejoiced in the temple.*

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign

that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Let All Together Praise Our God | 41*

- 1 Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,  
And gives us his own Son.**
- 2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.**
- 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;  
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,  
Who heav'n and earth did make.**
- 4 A wondrous change which he does make: He takes our flesh and blood,  
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God,  
His majesty as God.**

- 5 He serves that I a lord may be—A great exchange indeed!  
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need,  
To help me in my need?
- 6 For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

SERMON

*Isaiah 45:20-25*

God Calls for an *other* Meeting  
An other hunk \* An other divine quality \* An other deliverance

*Please stand.*

NICENE CREED

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

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.**

## **OFFERING**

*Online giving options available*



In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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**

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

**M: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**M: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

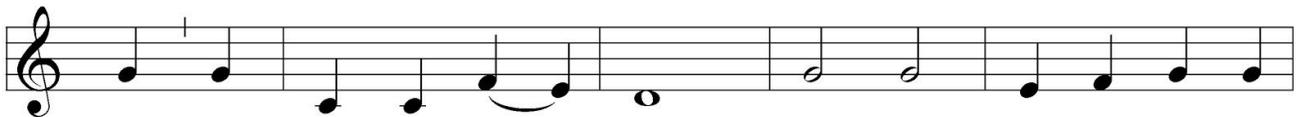
M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



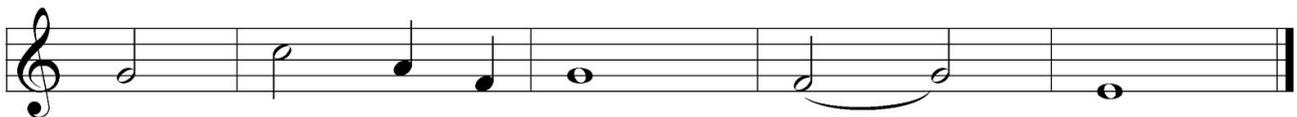
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated.*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:** *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | 42*

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing his love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.**
- 2 See how God, for us providing,  
Gave his Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.**
- 3 Christ, from heav'n to us descending  
And in love our race befriending,  
In our need his help extending,  
Saved us from the wily foe.**
- 4 Jacob's Star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.**
- 5 Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us;  
From your lowly manger cheer us.  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th' angelic choir.**

*Please stand.*

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Found on pg. 14 of the service folder.*

*Song of Simeon*

# SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*

Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN



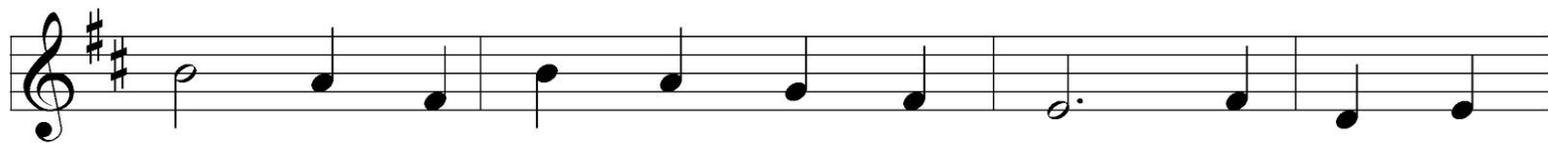
1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to



as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -  
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -  
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -



light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,  
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une



crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!  
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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## *SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:*

**PASTOR:** Rev. Aaron Mueller

**PIANIST:** Kayla Sprenger

**SOLOIST:** Christina Sprenger

**ALTAR GUILD:** Marilyn Eirich, Karen Kuhn, Jenny Walleser, Sandy Bolz, Stefani Leverenz

**USHERS:** 8:00 a.m.- Eric Specht, Payton Specht, Mike Austreng, Robert Gumm; 10:30 a.m. - Wayne Zarling, Chad Hayner, Mike Heilman; Monday 6:00 p.m. - Steve Strassburg