



S66 W14325 JANESVILLE RD • MUSKEGO WI 53150 • WELS • 414.422.0320 • WWW.STPAULMUSKEGO.ORG

FINDING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

FIND YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST

December 5, 7, and 8, 2024

"I despise myself" (Job 42:6).

"I am a worm and not a man" (Psalm 22:6).

Have you ever felt ashamed of yourself? Have you ever felt less than human? Job in the Old Testament felt that way. Even our Savior felt that way. Find your true worth in the Christ of Christmas.



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S – CONNECTION CARD

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online by scanning the QR Code.

CHILDCARE EVERY SUNDAY 7:45 – 10:45 am in east wing of the church.

SUNDAY KIDS CLUB FOR 3K – GRADE 5 9:30 – 10:30 am at the school. Register online at stpaulmuskego.org/kidsclub.

ACCESSIBILITY A hearing loop system and large-print worship folders are available.

QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? Visit the Welcome Center in the lobby where a greeter will be happy to assist you.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION (Sunday 9:30 am)

Advent Anticipation

Arr. K. Dennis

St. Paul's School Jr. Handbell Choir

BELLS AND WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

M We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came into history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

M We hear his call to repent.

C **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Two Advent candles are lit.

OPENING HYMN RED 23, vv. 1, 2, 4

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

2 Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

4 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

M In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

M As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior, let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

M Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

C **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

M You will come again in glory with salvation for your people.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness into his marvelous light. 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.



**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we are filled with wonder and awe as we contemplate your plan to save the world from sin—a plan conceived in the Garden of Eden and fulfilled on the cross of Calvary.

C **For centuries your people longed to see and understand these things; yet in many ways it remained a mystery to them.**

M Thank you for making this mystery known to us and for showing us the depths to which your love would go to bring us back into your family.

C **May our celebration of your coming to us in flesh and blood revive our weary souls and inspire us to rededicate our lives to you.**

M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

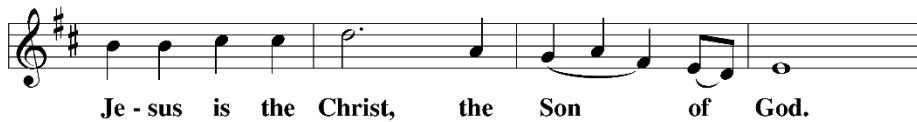
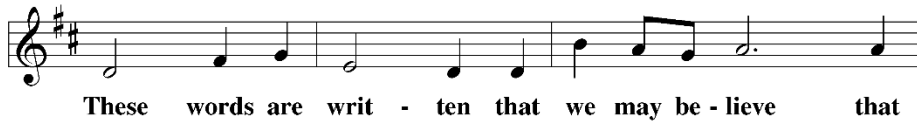


FIRST LESSON

Psalm 8 (Evangelical Heritage Version)

One thousand years before Christmas, King David predicted that a human being would be ruler of all with everything under his feet. Only Jesus fits that description. He is the LORD, Son of Man and Son of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY (*Thursday and Saturday*)



ANTHEM (*Sunday 8:00 am*)

Advent Anticipation

*Arr. K. Dennis
St. Paul's School Jr. Handbell Choir*

ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:30 am*)

O Come, Holy Savior

*Arr. A. L. Page
St. Paul's School Junior Choir*

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6, Bible page 1028

John the Baptizer, a real person, from a real place, at a real time, announced the coming of Christ, who would be a real person, from a real place, at a real time—a human being just like us.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY RED 28, vv. 1-4

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

**1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year
Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

**3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord --
Him of twofold race behold --
Truly came, as long foretold.**

**4 Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray;
Oh, prepare yourself a way.**

SERMON

Hebrews 2:5-18, Bible page 1205

Pastor Pete Panitzke (Thursday)

Pastor David Kuehl (Saturday and Sunday)

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**Crush for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,**

**And, when you shall come again
As a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
Freely ransomed by your grace.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

DISMISSAL OF ONLINE WORSHIPERS *(Sunday 9:30 am)*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



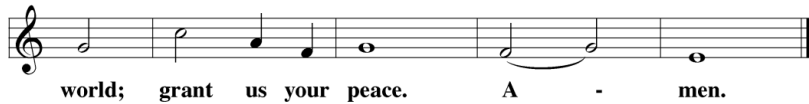
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Practice

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith. We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. If you are not a member of our Lutheran denomination, please speak with one of the pastors before joining us at the altar. Thank you.

Non-alcoholic wine (light-colored wine in tray) and gluten-free wafers (at Communion rail) are available.

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
 Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
 To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
 The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
 Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
 Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
 The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
 Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
 The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
 And makes true preparation -- It is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
 From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

CLOSING PRAYER

M Merciful Father, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed us with the precious body and blood of your dear Son for the forgiveness of our sin. By your grace fill us with the desire and the power to walk worthy of our holy calling and to reflect your glory in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS