



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Popularity is Not Proof of Success

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | Jordan, Minnesota

February 2, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service, we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY’S THEME

In 2009, Facebook added the “like” button. That same year, Twitter added the “retweet” feature. Interestingly, reported cases of depression began to rise sharply in 2010. It is easy to think that the more people like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success. Though there will be times when Chris’s gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church makes its central focus things like personal improvement, healing for the sick, or social justice, that church may draw a crowd. It just fails to carry out the true agenda Christ has given his Church. The gospel of forgiveness is to be the center of all our preaching and teaching. The agenda for Christ’s Church is set. It’s the same agenda that was followed by the Church’s Christ.

CLOSE COMMUNION

Following the guidance of Scripture, we invite those who are members of this congregation or one of our sister WELS congregations to join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning. Those who are members of other church bodies are asked to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. With this practice, it is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for respecting our practice regarding the Lord’s Supper.

Pastor.....Jeremy Glowicki
Organist.....Lois Zander

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

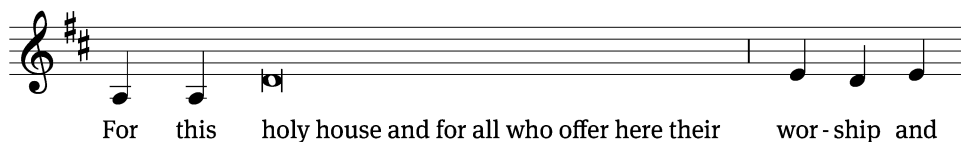
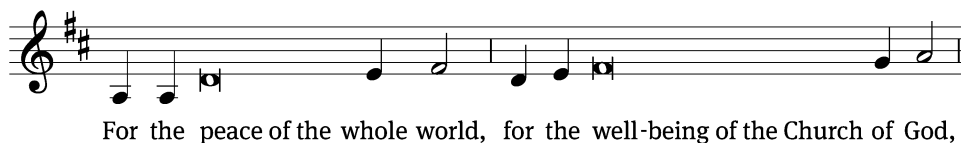
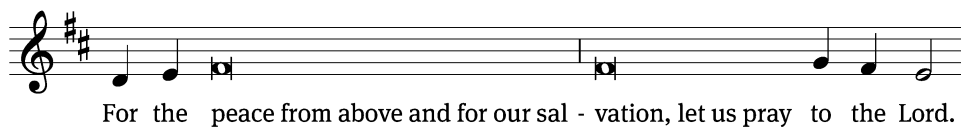
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior,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

Silence for meditation and reflection

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.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men. A - men.

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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

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

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

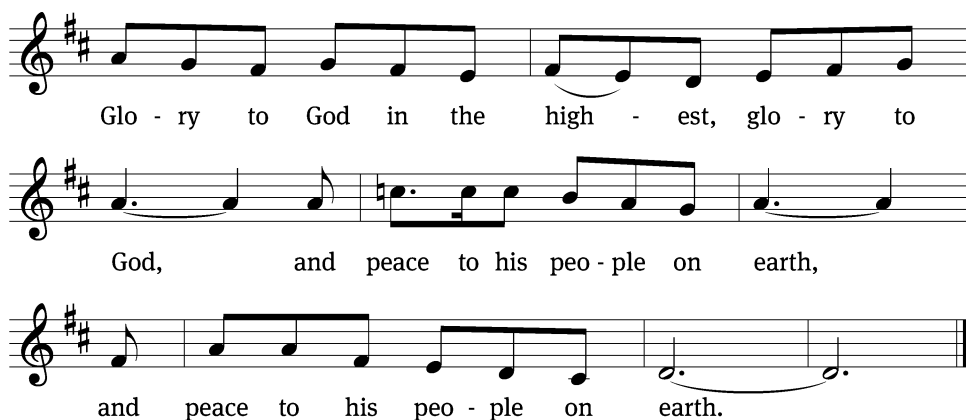
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4–10

The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God’s Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.

The word of the LORD came to me. Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations. But I said, “Ah, LORD God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!” The LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the LORD.” Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me: There! I have now placed my words in your mouth. Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

71A God Is My Strong Salvation

Psalms 71A

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.

As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside

to myths. As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

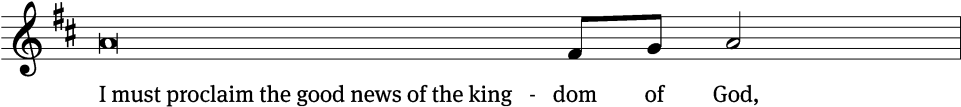
Luke 4:43



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 4:38-44

Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.

Jesus got up, left the synagogue, and went into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. They asked him to help her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. As the sun was setting, they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. Demons also came out of many people, crying out, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. When it was day, he went out to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. They went up to him and were trying to prevent him from leaving them. But he told them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is why I was sent." And he continued to preach in the synagogues in the land of the Jews.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

901 O Christians, Haste

CW 901

Children's Church

During the sermon, parents may choose to take their children ages 2-5 to children's church. Meet today's chaperone in the gathering area. They will hear a Bible story and sing songs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering

Sermon

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 truly 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

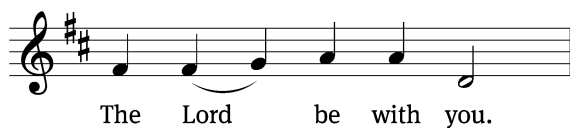
During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

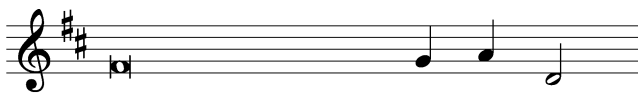
The Sacrament

Stand

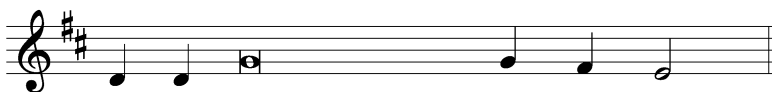
Preface

CW 199





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



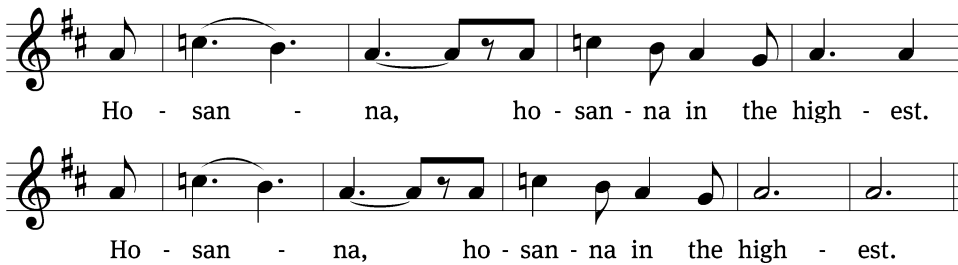
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

899 Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King

CW 899

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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 him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

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.

874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

CW 874

Acknowledgments

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CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELS



"Just as the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, so also was the very small beginning of our synod."

- J. Muehlhaeuser

A SYNOD IS BORN

On Dec. 8, 1849, three Lutheran pastors, led by Johannes Muehlhaeuser, met at Grace Downtown in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and "recognized the need of a joint effort to spread the kingdom of God for the Lutheran Church in Wisconsin." Muehlhaeuser recalled, "Just as the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, so also was the very small beginning of our synod." The synod adopted its constitution at its first official meeting on May 26, 1850, in Granville, Wisconsin.

The very first resolution in the synod's history, made at the Dec. 8, 1849, meeting, stated:

"That the synod which is to be founded bear the name 'The First German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin' and that this



Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee was constructed in 1851. Incorporated in 1849, Grace was where three Lutheran pastors met to discuss founding a synod that would eventually be known as WELS.

specific name and title remain with it forever.” There’s a story in the details:

- The synod was technically not “The First” since two other German Lutheran synods were already present in Wisconsin.
- The synod was “German” because its ministers came from Germany, spoke German, and sought to serve the large population of German immigrants who had no spiritual shepherds.
- The synod was “Evangelical” since it sought to make the proclamation of the gospel its chief endeavor.
- The synod was “Lutheran” because it sought primarily to serve churchless Lutherans and it followed the teachings of the Reformer Martin Luther.
- The synod was a “Synod” (a Greek word that literally means “coming together”) because the pastors wanted to work together to accomplish more gospel ministry.
- The synod was “of Wisconsin” because all its leaders served people in Wisconsin. At that time, most states had Lutheran synods of their own, so the first generation primarily focused on one region within their means.

Much has changed since the synod’s mustard seed-like beginnings 175 years ago—including its name. Yet one thing remains clear: the Word of the Lord endures forever.

An anniversary prayer

God of mercy, God of truth, we praise you because you have given your grace in Christ to us. We humbly honor you for placing your gift of Christ in us, and we boldly pray that you keep us faithful to your truth and bless your message of Christ through us. In his gracious name. Amen.

WELS Historical Institute

To learn more, visit welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th





Easter

SILENT AUCTION

SPONSORED BY WOVEN



1ST ANNUAL EASTER AUCTION



AUCTION STARTS
ASH WEDNESDAY

AUCTION CLOSSES
AFTER EASTER BREAKFAST



DONATIONS NEEDED ~ CONTACT AMY RADICK
DONATION DEADLINE ~ MARCH 2ND, 2025



Come one, come all & join us for Crockpots & Cornhole

There's something for everyone!

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Starts @ 12pm – Bring your favorite crockpot dish to share!



Cornhole registration starts @ 12pm

Tournament starts @ 1pm



We will also have Bingo & a Candybar walk that starts @ 130pm



FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 9 am Communion Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	3 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	4	5 Foundations 6 pm Woven 6 pm	6 Senior Coffee Fellowship 10 am	7	8
9 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday	10 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	11 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	12 Foundations 6 pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 9 am Communion Crockpots & Cornhole	17 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	18 Oak Terrace 9:45 am	19 Foundations 6 pm	20 Theology on Tap 6:30 pm Mana Brewing	21	22
23 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am WELS Conne- ction	24 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	25	26 Foundations 6 pm	27	28	

News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by the Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Thank you!

Committee Meeting

All members of the committees meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 pm. These meetings are important for planning and carrying out our ministry plans. Committee chairs, please remind your committee members.

Senior Fellowship

Come for some coffee, treats and fellowship on February 10 at 10 am for our next Senior Fellowship.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregation Meeting to review God's blessings this past year and look forward to our congregation's future ministry is February 16th following worship. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, in fact it is important that you do so. Look for the Annual Report to be available the first week in February.

Easter Silent Auction

The Women of Woven are hosting a silent auction and need your help. We are looking for donations of items for this event. If you own a business that provides a service or you are crafty, have handmade goods including gift baskets, we need your help. We are also looking for gift cards for area businesses or if you want to donate funds for us to purchase them. Please bring them to the church office for Woven from now until March 2nd. The silent auction will open for bidding on Ash Wednesday and close after Easter breakfast. This will be a cash or check only event and will use your offering number as your bidding number. The proceeds will be used to fund the many mission and outreach projects of Woven. If you have any questions, please see a member of Woven.

Crockpots and Cornhole

On Sunday, February 16th Woven will be hosting a "crockpot potluck" event along with a cornhole tournament (\$20 per player), Bingo, and Candy bar walk. Bring your favorite crockpot dish to share! Potluck starts at 12 pm, the Cornhole tournament is at 1 pm, followed by Bingo and the Candy bar walk at 1:30 pm.

SERVING THE LORD

Acolytes			Ushers	Media Booth	Organist
2/2	9 Am	(Need Volunteer)	4	(Need Volunteer)	Lois Zander
2/9	9 AM	(Need Volunteer)	1	(Need Volunteer)	-
2/16	9 AM	(Need Volunteer)	2	(Need Volunteer)	-

February Altar Guild	February Cleaners
Melanie Sparby/Jodi Bertrang	Carlstroms
February Counters	Winter Service Group Leader
-	Need Volunteer
March Altar Guild	Children's Church Volunteer
Angela Ambroz/Nancy Stocker/Brenda Stocker	2/2 - Katie Zander

Attendance	
Sunday	89
Monday	10
Total	99

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$2217	\$3834
Online Giving	\$1636	
Total	\$3853	\$3834



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