

BLESSING

The God of love,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist:
Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Bever; Altar: Lori Brueggen & Barb
Ornes; Communion Server: Kirstin Arndt

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Wayne Schindler, Florence
Dougherty, Dan Paulson, Laurie Switz Johnson, Jeremy
Munson, Heidi Stenerson, Richie Vlasak, Kristy Gwin Solovey,
Bud Speicher, Kathy Von Ruden, Lyle Schindler, Gordy
O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Mary Ann Arndt, Cole Brandau,
Vicky Boldon, Bud Osteboe, as well as the families and friends
of those killed and wounded in the attack in New Orleans. We
also lift those affected by being in or around Bourbon Street,
the site of the tragedy.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen
Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

Inviting People to

Journey with Christ's Family

In Spreading God's Love and Mercy

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)*

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
⊕ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

***Hymn** **“Love Has Come”** **ELW #292**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

P: There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

“Lamb of God”

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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

Sending Hymn “Let Our Gladness Know No End” **ELW#291**

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus
taught us:

**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.

***KYRIE**

Canticle of Praise

“Glory to God”

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P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
or the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light
of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to re-
flect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(God of grace,
receive our prayer.)

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Offering Hymn **“What Feast of Love”** **ELW #487**

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” ELW #270**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING

A reading from Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

*Gospel Acclamation

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GOSPEL READING

The gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid