



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Wilton, WI
 Second Sunday of Christmas
 January 4, 2026
 10:15 AM

**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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Gathering

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

Hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" 2X Back Cover

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty Savior,
 Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus 670

WORDS: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922
 MUSIC: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

LEMMELE
 Irregular

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in His

won - der - ful face, won - der - ful face, and the things of earth will grow

strange - ly dim in the light of His glo - ry and grace.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
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

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister: Rev.
Dennis Hallmeier; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Or-
nes; Acolytes:

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Linda, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey,
Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans,
Jack Arndt, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk,
Jeri Bauer Weger, Patty Von Haden, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce,
Pastor Bob Gerke, Brian, Jim Summerfield, Darlene Diekrager,
Clint Meacham, Robert Hill, Tom Arndt, Alice Leis.

IN THE MILITARY

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

CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 11	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Church Council Meeting	11:30 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25,
2026, immediately following worship. In addition to the
usual business of electing council members, reviewing the
committee reports, financial reports and approving the 2026
budget, the council may request a reduction of council
members from 9 to 7 and the consolidation of committees.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Incarnate God,
you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen

Hymn “Love Has Come” ELW #292

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Kyrie
Hymn of Praise

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ELW p. 204

***Prayer of the Day**

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live,
and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By
your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward
the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, 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

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God’s gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A reading from Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead them back;
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
 for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;
 say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
 and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of
 the LORD,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy;
 I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD.

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE GREAT THANKSGIVING

***Holy, Holy, Holy"**

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Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
 Come to the feast of joy!

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

Distribution

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 208

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.

***PRAYERS** (God of grace, receive our prayer.)

OFFERING

Hymn "In the Bleak of Winter" ELW #294, V 3

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving
grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made
know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Je-
sus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been
promised eternal salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in
the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before

the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

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***GOSPEL READING**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The holy gospel according to John 1:10-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon

Reverend Dennis Hallemeier (Ret.)

Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

ELW#295

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,