

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.StBartsPewaukee.com

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

ABOUT US

We're so glad you're with us today. We're a **Christian Church**: we believe Jesus is our Lord & Savior and the Bible is God's Word for us. We're an **Episcopal Church** in the Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin which is part of the **Anglican Communion** dating back to the first Christians in England in the 2nd century A.D.

Our Mission is *helping everyone become who God created them to be.*

WELCOME

If this is your first time here we'd love to **say Thanks or answer any questions**. You can call/text our pastor, **Father Joel** at **(262) 725-2691** or email: **pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com**.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Everything you need today is in this bulletin. Our worship is a "liturgy" with two parts: **THE WORD OF GOD** and **THE HOLY COMMUNION** which all baptized Christians are welcome to receive, including children.

KIDS

Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for the entire service (we don't mind babies behaving like babies).

Children's Chapel is available for kids Pre-K through Elementary. They will follow the Teacher to the classroom in the south hallway at *The Collect of the Day*. They will return at *The Peace*.



WHO'S WHO

Pastor / Rector

the Rev'd Joel Allen Prather
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Prayer Requests

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The Hymnal 1982

The blue hymnal found in the pew racks is the collection of hymns, tunes, and service music authorized for use in the Episcopal Church. The Hymnal is a companion for the Book of Common Prayer, supporting the Lectionary and the Calendar. It includes service music and 720 hymns. The Hymnal is strongly founded on congregational singing.

We are singing the hymns that are in the hymnal from the hymnal. All other music will continue to have the lyrics in the printed worship bulletin.

If you are new to The Hymnal: hymn numbers are found in bold in the hymnal. The first quarter of the book is service music, such as the Song of Praise and the Sanctus that we sing every Sunday. Service music has an “S” in front of the number. Hymns comprise the rest of the hymnal, bold numbers 1 - 720. There are not page numbers. **Look for the hymn by its number, not its name.**

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emanuel verses 1, 5, 6

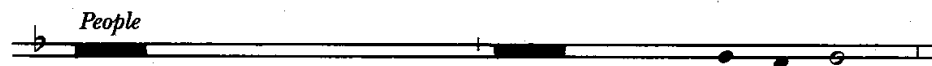
Blue Hymnal 56

The Opening Acclamation

Blue Hymnal S76



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God - Trisagion

Blue Hymnal S101

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**A short prayer to unify, or “collect”, our intentions for worship. It typically indicates the theme of the day.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Chapel

At this time kids Pre-K through Elementary are invited to come to the front for a blessing and then follow the Teacher to Children's Chapel.

The Lessons *(please be seated)*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

The Psalms were originally written to be sung. These poems and prayers have been the foundation of worship for Jews and Christians for 3,000 years, and Jesus prayed and sang the psalms regularly.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; * for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: * the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, * for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from the letter of James (5:7-10)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn*: Change My Heart O God

*Please stand as you are able. *This is a song to prepare us to hear Jesus' words. Its ancient name is from the Latin "gradus", the place it was sung in Church.*

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.
You are the potter. I am the clay.
Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.
Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You

The Gospel (means "Good News")

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel + of our Lord Jesus Christ + according to Matthew + (11:2-11)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

+ *You may make a small + Cross with your thumb over your mind, lips, and heart.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs

The Sermon

Fr. Joel Prather

The Nicene Creed *(please stand and pray together)*

The Nicene Creed in this bulletin is slightly different than what you may be used to. This is because the Episcopal Church restored the original language of the Nicene Creed which was shared by all Christians until the 6th Century.

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, *(you may bow down here)* was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. *(you may rise)*

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. *(* means universal)*

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.

+ *you may make the Sign of the Cross here to acknowledge the hope that you will be resurrected*

The Prayers of the People

The Reader and People pray responsively

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, let us pray to the Lord.

Here and after every petition the People respond

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Matthew our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald our President, Tony our Governor, Paul our County Executive, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the first inhabitants of Pewaukee: we honor the Potawatomi people, as well as the Oneida people who brought the Episcopal Church to Wisconsin. Help us to be instruments of your peace and justice, we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, prisoners, the unemployed, and those in any need. Remembering especially those on our prayer list...

We also pray for our ministry partners:

- Arlo and Ashtyn's Hope (*Canavan's Disease*)
- Fr. Andrew and Amazing Grace AIDS Ministry (*Malawi*)
- Pastor David and Breaking The Chains Church (*Felmers O. Cheney Correctional Center, Milwaukee*)
- Joe and Family Promise of Waukesha County (*Homelessness*)
- Our Karén Families and their Beautiful Garden
- Dave, Judy, and the Pewaukee Food Pantry
- Bishop Daudi and Olivia in Tanzania
- Bill and our Veterans and Families Groups
- Sharon and our Waukesha County Affordable Housing Coalition

...we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Bartholomew and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

We will observe an extended moment of silent reflection before proceeding. Please feel free to relax and sit down if you prefer.

Celebrant: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace *(All stand.)*

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

People: And also with you.

Sharing “peace” with one another is an ancient Christian tradition, not only in the words of Jesus, but also in the practices of the Christian community. As you are comfortable, you are welcome to shake hands when we pass the peace. Please respect those that are not comfortable with hand shaking. A simple nod or the peace sign is also a meaningful way to share the peace of Christ.

Announcements

Be sure to sign-up for our eNews using the Welcome! card in your pew rack or at our website. We also encourage you to follow us on our YouTube, Facebook and/or Instagram accounts to stay up-to-date and hit “Share” to let your friends see what’s happening.

The Offertory

God tells us in the Bible, no one should feel pressured about giving (2 Corinthians 9:7). Please be at peace about what you choose to do or not to do. The most important offering God wants from us is our life & our hearts. You can place an offering in the basket passed by the ushers or in the wooden box marked Donations near the exit of the Church.

Offertory Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Blue Hymnal 66

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(The Celebrant reads a Preface of the Lord's Day - a variable portion of the text of our Eucharistic Prayer that plays an important role in aligning our worship with the theme of a particular occasion or season.)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People: Sanctus

Blue Hymnal S130

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

"Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Bartholomew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

The Lord's Prayer

Blue Hymnal S119

Fraction Anthem

Blue Hymnal S152

Agnus Dei

Blue Hymnal S164

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion for livestream worshippers - a personal devotional that anyone can pray to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in circumstances which prevent them from actually receiving communion. The prayer will be displayed on the screen.

About Communion at St. Bartholomew's

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us, including children. If this doesn't describe where you're at, you are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing which you can indicate by crossing your hands over your heart. Or feel free to stay in your seat to pray or reflect.

Please come to the rail in front of the altar to receive the Bread and Wine. We have Gluten free Communion Bread for those who desire it. We use alcoholic wine. Bread will be served to you as you stand or kneel. Small cups of wine will be presented to you. Take a cup of wine. As you leave, place the empty cup in the bowl near the end of the first pew and return to your seat. Thank you.

If you need Communion brought to you just let one of our Ushers know.

Prayer Ministry is offered confidentially during the Eucharist in the side chapel. Let us pray for all those in need; for yourself, family, or friends. You may also be anointed with oil for healing as the Bible teaches (James 5:14). We do so by making a small sign of the Cross upon one's forehead. All are welcome.



Communion Song 1: Breathe

(Verse 1)

This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence. Living in me.

This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread.
Your very word. Spoken to me.

And I, I'm desperate for You. And I, I'm lost without You.

(Verse 2)

This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe.
Your holy presence. Living in me.

This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread.
Your very word. Spoken to me.

And I, I'm desperate for You. And I, I'm lost without You.

This is the air I breathe.
This is the air.

Communion Song 2: King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt

[CHORUS]

Praise the Father, Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

[CHORUS]

And the morning that You rose, all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all
who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me

[CHORUS]

Prayers After Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant & People: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

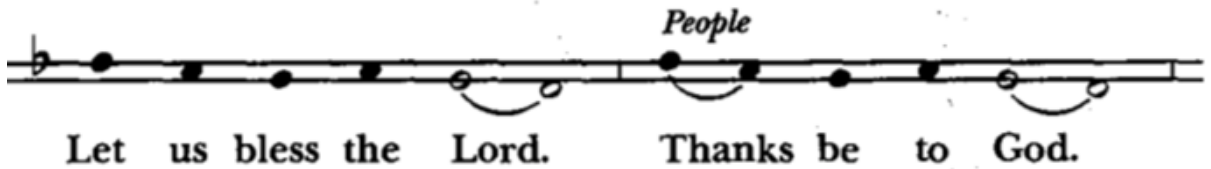
A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal



.....
Thank you for worshiping with us today.
Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Please scan here to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's.
We thank you for your generosity.



Celebrating the Lives of Saints

Christians have, since ancient times, honored people whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and who have borne witness to their faith even at the cost of their lives. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age. It should encourage us to realize that the saints, like us, are first and foremost redeemed sinners in whom the risen Christ's words to St. Paul come to fulfillment, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Today, we celebrate the life of:

JOHN OF THE CROSS

Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1591

The Carmelite theologian John of the Cross has been called “the poet’s poet,” “spirit of flame,” and “celestial and divine.”

John was born in 1542 at Fontiveros, near Avila, Spain. After his third birthday, his father died, leaving his mother and her children reduced to poverty. John received elementary education in an orphanage in Medina del Campo. By the age of seventeen, he had learned carpentry, tailoring, sculpturing, and painting through apprenticeships to local craftsmen.

After university studies with the Jesuits, John entered the Carmelite Order in Medina del Campo and completed his theological studies in Salamanca. In 1567, he was ordained to the priesthood and recruited by Teresa of Avila for the reformation of the Carmelite Order.

John became disillusioned with what he considered the laxity of the Carmelites and, in 1568, he opened a monastery of “Discalced” (strict observance) Carmelites, an act that met with sharp resistance from the General Chapter of the Calced Carmelites. John was seized, taken to Toledo, and imprisoned in the monastery. During nine months of great hardship, he comforted himself by writing poetry. It was while he was imprisoned that he composed the greater part of his luminous masterpiece, *The Spiritual Canticle*, as well as a number of shorter poems. His other major works include *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Living Flame of Love*, and *The Dark Night*. It is this latter work, *Noche obscura del alma*, that gave the English language the phrase “dark night of the soul.”

After a severe illness, John died on December 14th, 1591, in Ubeda, in southern Spain.

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, who gave John of the Cross strength of purpose and faith that sustained him even through the dark night of the soul: Shed your light on all who love you, in unity with Jesus Christ our Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BECOMING A MEMBER AT ST. BART'S

You can become a Member any Sunday.

What does it mean to be a Member of the Church?

1. Make it official.
2. Participate in worship, in-person and/or online, more often than you don't.
3. Connect with other Members.
4. Serve.
5. Give.

Membership Starts With Baptism

If you, or your children, are not baptized you can do so any Sunday. Simply talk to Father Joel and he'd be glad to answer any questions and help you prepare for Baptism.

So How Do I Make It Official?

- Talk to our pastor Father Joel.
- During Sunday worship you'll be invited up front to...
 - ◊ Renew your Baptismal Promises with two questions.
 - ◊ The congregation will then promise to "do all in their power to support you in your life in Christ."
 - ◊ We'll say a prayer for you.
 - ◊ We'll present you with a gift of Membership and a beautiful watercolor Membership Certificate by our own Dulcie Shupe.
 - ◊ Thunderous applause for you!
 - ◊ That's it...Congratulations!

So...Want To Make It Official?