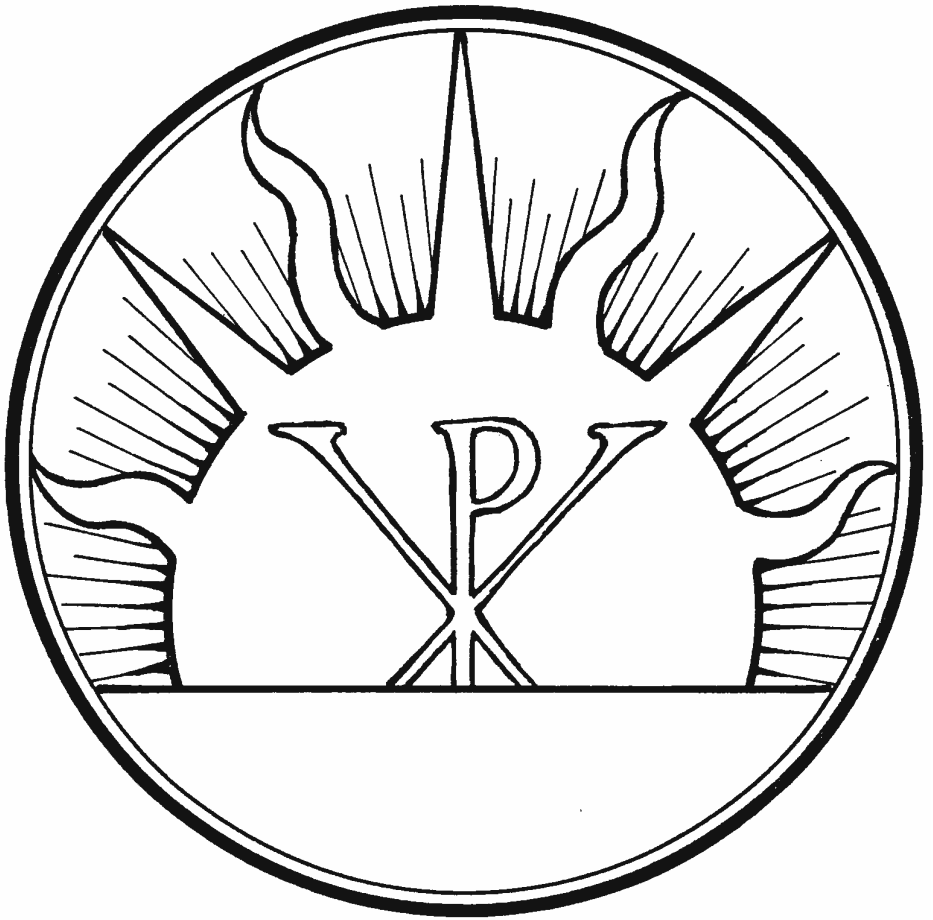


Third Sunday in Advent



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Dec 12 & 13, 2020

December 12, 2020 - 5:30pm

December 13, 2020 - 9:00am

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP

Jesus has invited you here today.

Here, Jesus stills quaking hearts. Here, Jesus forgives the unspeakable. Here, Jesus comforts the lonely. Here, Jesus makes joy complete!

Here you will meet others Jesus has grabbed with His grace.

We invite you to sign a guest card in the pew rack, noting your attendance and place it in the offering plate as the offering is taken or you may sign the attendance book in the Fellowship Hall.

OUR MISSION

Gaining and nurturing disciples for Christ through the Word and Sacrament, and proclaiming to all people traditional Biblical truths as a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

HOLY COMMUNION

To Our Guests: We're glad you're here! Lutherans believe this sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Here he gives himself and all that he promises. Receiving the sacrament is also an expression of full unity in faith with those with whom you are communing. Based on this theological principle, if you are a member of a congregation that shares the confession of faith of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to commune with us today. We continue to pray for the day when all divisions in the body of Christ will cease. Anyone who wishes may receive a pastoral blessing by kneeling at the altar rail with your arms folded across your chest. If you desire to commune at St. Paul and would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor.

To Those Communing Today: God's Word instructs those who come to the Lord's Table to first examine themselves. You may use the "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on p.329-330 in the hymnal to guide you in self-examination.

Special communion procedures have been developed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the instructions of the pastor and ushers. Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the pastor or an usher before the service.

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting Three

PRELUDE

HYMN OF INVOCATION “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.

- 1 *Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.*

- 2 *Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

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Stand

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

C Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not
turn back to folly.

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

C Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

C Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

KYRIE

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. 4They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 8For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. 10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

After the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

A When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

C Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

A then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

C Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

A Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

C He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise prophecies, 21but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22Abstain from every form of evil. 23Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

After the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10b

C Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 19And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

After the reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”

Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.

- 1 *The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.*

- 3 *The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
Glow's in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.*

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THE SERMON

“Almost Out of the Dark”

John 1:6-8, 19-28

HYMN

“The Night Soon Will Be Ending”

Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.

4 *Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin's oppressive might.*

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OFFERTORY

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free
spirit. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Merciful Father,
C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--our
selves, our time, our income, and our possessions, signs of your gracious
love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n a'snd earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI "The Peace of the Lord"

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

FOR MEDITATION DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Luther's Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

The Second Petition "Thy kingdom come"

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Psalm 8

1The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

2The LORD sends forth from Zion

your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3Your people will offer themselves freely

on the day of your power,

in holy garments;

from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.

4The LORD has sworn

and will not change his mind,

"You are a priest forever

after the order of Melchizedek."

5The Lord is at your right hand;

he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

6He will execute judgment among the nations,

filling them with corpses;

he will shatter chiefs

over the wide earth.

7He will drink from the brook by the way;

therefore he will lift up his head.

Prayer

Father in heaven, give us Your Holy Spirit so that we believe Your Holy Word and live as members of Your gracious kingdom here in time and finally, by Your mercy, be brought to live as partakers of Your everlasting reign; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Nunc Dimittis”

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.
- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You ... one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
- P** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound”

Words are printed for silent meditation. Please refrain from singing for the sake of your neighbor.

- 1 *Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.*
- 2 *He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.*

- 3 *He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.*
- 4 *Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.*

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**THE USHERS WILL DISMISS EACH PEW STARTING FROM THE
BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.**

POSTLUDE



PREPARING YOURSELF FOR WORSHIP

In order to help prepare your selves for our worship services, we are listing below the scripture readings for the coming week.

December 19 & 20 – 4th Weekend in Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE FOR

Sue & Cindy Hass
in memory of their father Dr. Russell Hass

DECEMBER 5 & 6 STATISTICS

In-Person Attendance:	59
Views* on Facebook:	27
Views on YouTube:	13
DVD's Distributed:	6
Overall Participation:	105

*The number of devices playing our service for one minute or longer. This does not account for groups who watched together on the same screen.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sat. Dec 12 @ 5:30 pm	Sun. Dec 13 @ 9:00 am
Head Usher:	Jon Walker	Dave Kelley
Accompanist:	Laura Bee	Laura Bee
	Wed. Dec 16 @ 5:30pm	
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	
Accompanist:	Dr. Charles Barland	

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

None

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

16-Erin Hassler

17-Judy Marcue

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

13-Kristie Fry

15-Sue Hass

15-Jane Kalvelage

18-Diane Schulz

18-Kip Weland, Jr.

- **FOOD PANTRY** - For the month of December, we are collecting the following items for the Food Pantry:

Shampoo

Potatoes

Canned Fruit

Hot Chocolate

Lotion

Oil

Toilet Tissue

Graham Crackers

- **FLOWER CHART:** The 2021 Altar flower sign up book is now in fellowship hall. We had to change supplier as Ace Hardware no longer is doing custom orders. White's Florist will be delivering our weekly arrangement and the price is \$25. Now is the time to reserve your date for flowers to enhance the beauty of our worship service. We do ask that you make your check to St Paul earmarked "alter flowers" when you sign up. Put check in envelope provided and place in offering plate. Questions contact Charlotte Tigges 563 552 2351.
- **REMINDER:** There will be NO Sunday School until further notice.
- **UPDATE:** The 4pm Christmas Eve is now full. The 6:30pm Christmas Eve service has 25 seats left.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mindful of the Father's great mercy shown to us in Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who are in need.

For those undergoing cancer treatment:

Roger Riechmann (father of Teri Riechmann & Sheila Zasada)
Rae Ann Wegner (sister of Kim Weed)
Jayme Niemeier (nephew of Dave & Sue Krause)
Donna Sue LeTendre (niece of Delores Lindsay)
Christa Wubben (daughter of Jerry & Jan Anderson)
Raymond Kruser (brother-in-law of Dave & Sue Krause)
Tom Engler (brother of Nancy Clark)
Zeke Pergande (son of Dan & Doris Pergande)
Sally Bennett (sister to Delores's son-in-law)
Martha (godmother of Will Wehrspann)
Deana Miller (friend of Jerry & Jan Anderson)
Mike Howes, Dan Pergande

For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Ennoble Manor), Kathryn Moyer (Care Initiatives), Nancy Clark, Jean Henningsen (Sunnycrest Manor), Judy Pergande, Marlene Lenaburg (Luther Manor), Doris Pergande, Dusty Colby

For our Healthcare Workers & Teachers and Parafessionals:

Laura Ayers, Elizabeth Capacchione, Erica Frey, Brianna Fry, Sue Hagemann (daughter of John & Marlene Weber), Erin Hassler, Angela Kelley, A.J. Osterkamp, Lauren Rusch (granddaughter of Dan & Carol Rusch), Stephanie Schap, Lydia Wehrspann, Sheila Zasada, Deanna (daughter of Bill & Sandi Heller), Becky (daughter-in-law of Bill & Sandi Heller) Jon Barz (University of Dubuque), Laura Bee (UW Platteville), Laura Walker (UW Platteville), Lisa Wehrspann (Table Mound Elementary)

Additional Prayer Requests

- Brenda Litka
- Lori Ollendick (daughter of Dick & Charlotte Tigges)
- Dennis Paar
- Randy Streif (friend of Margaret Fox)
- Greg & JoAnn Schmidt (friends of Margaret Fox)
- Lynda Kluesner (friend of Margaret Fox)
- for the family of Tom Spear, Jr.

**Note: The "additional" section of the prayer list will be cleared at the beginning of each month. If you would like a name to remain on the list into the next month, please contact the church office and we would be happy to continue praying for your intention.*

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Jackson Street • Dubuque, IA 52001 • StPaulDBQ.com



Like us on Facebook

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm

Pastor Jonathan T. Crawford (563) 556-7637 E-mail: revjcrowford@gmail.com
Teri Riechmann, Secretary (563) 556-7636 E-mail: stpsecretary@msn.com
Laura Bee, Accompanist

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

3rd Sun in Advent Sat. Dec 12	5:30pm	Worship Service w/ Holy Comm.
3rd Sun in Advent Sun. Dec 13	9:00am	Worship Service w/ Holy Comm.
	10:30am	Bible Study on Facebook only
Mon. Dec 14		
Tues. Dec 15		“Prayers from the Parsonage” with Pastor & Katy (Facebook)
Wed. Dec 16	5:30pm	Advent Midweek Service
Thur. Dec 17		
Fri. Dec 18		NEWSLETTER INFO DUE
4th Sun in Advent Sat Dec 19	5:30pm	Worship Service w/ Holy Comm.
4th Sun in Advent Sun. Dec 20	9:00am	Worship Service w/ Holy Comm.

Prayers from the Parsonage will take place sometime between 5pm & 7pm depending on the kids feeding schedule that day. Thank you for your flexibility.