

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



GOD'S GRACE BLESSES US
IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE OF LIFE

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

February 17, 2019



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child is restless, you can use the Family Room to calm your child. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the Worship Center. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers or greeters can give you directions or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

There's no question that God blesses believers—then again, we might question that truth, especially in the midst of the thorns and briars of life. God uses those troubling times as blessings for his people, too. A person can only rejoice in suffering when they know, through faith, the One who suffered for them. God's grace is what carries us through this life into the next.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is green to symbolize how God's grace alone causes our faith to grow despite life's circumstances.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole and the piece of cloth hanging from the pulpit.

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

The service of word and sacrament proclaims the gospel through God's Word and the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

I Leave All Things to God's Direction | 414 (1-4)

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Pastor: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Everyone: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

Everyone: Amen.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Everyone: ♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love,
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
You make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
You came to live with us; you made your Father known;
You washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. ♪

CW p.28

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Everyone: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Trusting God brings blessings.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 1 | p.64

Refrain: ♪ Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord. ♪

♪ Blessed is the man
 who does not walk in the counsel of the 'wicked*
 or stand in the way of 'sinners.
But his delight is in the law 'of the LORD*
 and on his law he meditates 'day and night.
His is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in 'season*
 and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does 'prosper.

Refrain

♪ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the 'judgment;*
 nor sinners in the assembly of the 'righteous.
For the LORD watches over the way of the 'righteous,*
 But the way of the wicked will 'perish.

♪ Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*
 and to the Holy 'Spirit,
as it was in the be'ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

God's grace is sufficient, no matter the circumstance.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.** (*John 6:68 NIV84®*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

Believers are blessed by God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Everyone: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Man Is Ever Blest | 475 (1-6)

To tune CW485

SERMON - GIVE THANKS FOR THE THORNS

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Everyone: 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 fully 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.

THE THANK OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. Please fill out the friendship register as it is passed. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubles homes and lives.

C: **Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

Special prayers and intercession

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

Everyone: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

CW p. 33

Everyone: ♪ And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Everyone: ♪ We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Everyone: ♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Everyone: ♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

CW p. 34

The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Everyone: 🎵 Amen.

Everyone: 🎵 O Christ, Lamb of God,

CW p.35

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen. 🎵

(Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.)

The communicant members of our congregation will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor prior to communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we've had an opportunity to explain and prove them from Scripture. The pastor would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God's Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

If you are in need of gluten free wafers or grape juice, please ask for directions from an usher.

COMMUNION HYMNS

What God Ordains Is Always Good | 429 (1-4)

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | 309 (1-3)

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

Everyone: 🎵 Thank the Lord and sing his praise.

CW p.36

Tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia! 🎵

Pastor: Let us pray together.

Everyone: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Everyone: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen. ♪

CLOSING HYMN

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus | 446 (1, 4-6)



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. For a clearer picture of what led Paul to write what he did, read 2 Corinthians 11 and 12. What insights from Paul's life, as seen in those chapters, play into the topic of seeing God's grace in every circumstance of life?
2. Agree or disagree and explain. God's purpose in sending this messenger of Satan (whatever it was) was ultimately to torment Paul. What other stories or verses come to mind as you wrestle with that statement?
3. Compare and contrast today's Gospel from Luke 6 with Matthew 5:1-12. If you had to summarize what Jesus is saying in both accounts, how would you communicate Jesus' words in no more than two sentences?
4. In all the readings, including Psalm 1, there's a lot of talk about the righteous and the wicked. Of what must we constantly remind ourselves as we look at the difference between the two types of people? In other words, who gets the credit for someone being righteous? Who gets "credit" for someone being wicked?

YOUTH WORSHIP QUESTIONS

(Intended for grade school-age, but useful for anyone.)

1. Sometimes, in church, we hear or see words that are confusing or big. If you come across a word you don't know in one of the songs or readings today, write it down. Then, ask your family what it means when you get home.

2. What is one thing you want to remember about today's children's message?

3. From what book of the Bible did pastor preach the sermon?

4. What did you learn about Jesus in the sermon?

5. After what you heard in church today, what is one thing you can pray for?



Blessed

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

Christian Decision-Making: Do Not Fear When Unclear
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

HELP AT THE FOOD PANTRY

March 4-8

Our church is serving at the community food pantry the first week in March. If you can pack groceries, we can use your help for one of our shifts - Tuesday (4:00-7:00 p.m.) and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon (12:00-4:00 p.m.). To volunteer, please contact Judy Anderson by Feb. 22: 5JAnderson@charter.net or 715-423-5922.

HYGIENE DRIVE

Feb. 17-Mar. 10

Hygiene and cleaning products can be expensive, and they are not covered by Food Share (formerly Food Stamps). Our community is collecting these items for local crisis agencies, so they can use their limited funds to provide qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve. A collection box can be found in our Welcome Center. The most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen size trash bags (shelters go thru LOTS of these), shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care. Many other items are needed as well. A complete list is posted by the donation bin.

CODES FUND FIELD TRIPS

This week, our school received a check for \$31.97 from the Coca-Cola Give program. This money helps fund bussing for field trips. Thank you to everyone who saves codes from Coke products. Codes can be found inside bottle caps and inside 12-pack and 24-pack cartons. You can enter the codes yourself online at us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/, or bring them to the office and we will enter them for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 17 Community Hygiene Drive Begins
- Mar. 3 Together We Shine Event at NLHS
- Mar 4-8 St. Paul's Serving at the Food Pantry
- Mar. 6 Ash Wednesday

HUDDLES WITH PASTOR PROEBER
Now through Feb. 28
Sign up in the Welcome Center

UPDATE ON FAMILY IN NEED

You have responded generously to our request for items for our new Christian friend and her family. Your donations have enabled this family to live comfortably by fulfilling basic needs. Your prayers and words of kindness have brought a smile to the faces of each member of this family and shown them the true desire of Christians to care for all people. Even while many of their needs have been supplied, some continued financial setbacks have occurred which brings me to supplying you with a short list of ongoing needs. Be assured that we are working with community resources and using all of our assets wisely, but the process is slow. In the meantime, you are a blessing to this family. Thank you for your continued donations, especially for basic needs such as food and transportation.

Ongoing Needs: gift cards (SCRIP) for groceries and prescriptions (Walmart, IGA, Roundy's, Aldi's, Walgreens) or cash donations for incidentals; mattresses (any size); used clothes dryer; sturdy wooden rack for hanging clothes to dry; fan; dresser and/or plastic stackable drawers to store clothes or other items; hair dryer; wall clock with batteries; Swiffer wet mop with refill pads; kitchen garbage bags (13 gal.), paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, paper plates, laundry detergent, dish soap, etc.; transportation to church, grocery store, etc.; and shoveling or snowblowing.

Please contact me, Jan Peronto, at (715) 421-3365 or email me at JKP111310@gmail.com with any questions or leave a note in my mailbox.

TOGETHER WE SHINE

March 3 | 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Northland Lutheran High School's (NLHS) annual Together We Shine event has a new twist this year: Each congregation is preparing a large roaster of soup to serve at the buffet, and diners will vote on the best soup. A Golden Ladle Award will go to the best soup, and an Empty Bowl Award will go to the first soup gone. The rest of the afternoon will include presentations, performances, a silent auction, and many displays. If you are able to donate items for the auction, please contact NLHS as soon as possible. Please call or email to let them know you will attend (715-359-3400 or nlhsoffice@nlhs.org).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 233 Year-to-date average attendance: 261

Livestream & Facebook Live worshippers: 20

From July 1, 2018 to February 8, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 608,829

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 615,090 Mortgage Balance \$ 1,558,159

CALENDAR

February 17-24

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Bible Study Room
MONDAY	6:30 PM	Willing Workers
	6:30 PM	Worship
TUESDAY	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers peer Group in the Resource Center
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class (grades 6-8) in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Choir in the balcony
	7:00 PM	Contemporary Choir in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Men's Devotionals Basketball in the gym
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the Dining Room
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym



Thank you to those who donated 8-1/2" X 11" paper over the last couple of weeks. It is really appreciated. We still need 8-1/2" X 14" paper for bulletins.



311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org