

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We must
**OBEY
GOD**
rather than
— ANY —
**HUMAN
AUTHORITY.**

ACTS 5:29, NRSV



THE RISEN CHRIST BRINGS POWER
TO PROCLAIM PEACE
The Second Sunday of Easter

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

April 28, 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 help you find the restrooms, family room or answer your other questions.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Final preparation to be the risen Christ's witnesses begins with sight. The apostles were blessed visibly seeing the risen Lord. Overcoming their doubts by the power of the Spirit, they would boldly proclaim the new life to be found in the Living One. Blessed to see through the eyes of faith, the vision of the First and the Last fills our hearts with confidence: "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again."

The liturgical color¹ for the Easter season is white, which is the color of joy, perfection, and purity. It also points our eyes to the glory of heaven, where all of those things will be enjoyed by believers for all eternity.

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Hymns and liturgy marked CW can be found in the red hymnals in the pew racks, *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. Service of the Word. Words and Music. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.

Every Sunday is considered "a little Easter" due to the joy of forgiveness. In the Sundays of Easter, we especially continue to rejoice in the certainty of Christ's resurrection, as well as the certainty of forgiveness.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today | CW 157
Contemporary setting*

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation (C): And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Lord I Lift Your Name

Lord, I lift Your name on high Lord, I love to sing Your
prais - es. I'm so glad You're in_ my life I'm so glad You came to
save_ us. You came from heav - en to earth to show the
way. From the earth_ to the cross,_ my debt to pay. From the cross_ to the grave,
_ from the grave_ to the sky._ Lord I lift Your name on high.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON - Acts 5:12, 17-32

The apostles would not keep silent about the risen Christ.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Even though the first lesson typically comes from a book of the Old Testament, the Sundays of Easter provide us with an opportunity to hear of fulfillment rather than prophecy, specifically when it comes to the spread of the gospel of Christ crucified and risen.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 150 | CW p.122

Verses sung antiphonally.

All: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

Left-side: ♪ Praise God in his sanctu'ary;*
Praise him in his mighty 'heavens. ♪

Right-side: ♪ Praise him for his acts of 'power;*
Praise him for his surpassing 'greatness. ♪

All: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

Left-side: ♪ Praise him with the sounding of the 'trumpet,*
Praise him with the 'harp and lyre. ♪

Right-side: ♪ Praise him with tambourine and 'dancing,*
Praise him with 'strings and flute. ♪

Left-side: ♪ Praise him with the clash of 'cymbals,*
Praise him with resounding 'cymbals. ♪

All: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

Right-side: ♪ Let everything that has breath 'praise the LORD.*
Praise 'the LORD. ♪

Left-side: ♪ Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son*
And to the Holy 'Spirit, ♪

Right-side: ♪ As it was in the be'ginning,*
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen. ♪

All: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:9-19

We do not have to fear the image of the risen Christ.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

*We said farewell to "Alleluia"
(which means "praise the
Lord") during Lent. We now
joyously say hello again to
Alleluia in our worship.*

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The risen Christ empowers his followers.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

HYMN

O Sons and Daughters of the King | CW 165 (1,4-9)

SERMON - YOU HAVE POWER FROM THE RISEN CHRIST!

1. Power to forgive
2. Power to believe
3. Power to live forever

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be seated.

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register which will be passed out during the offering.

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: God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in Your Son.

C: **By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.**

M: Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people.

C: **Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.**

M: Preserve us from all assaults on our souls and deliver us from doubt and despair.

C: **Preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.**

M: Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and faithless.

C: **Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and the distressed.**

Special prayers and intercession may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to us all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Be seated.

HYMN

Christ Is Risen, He's Risen Indeed

How can it be the One who died has borne our sin through
(Where) doubt and dark - ness once had been they saw Him and their

4
sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - ia!"
hearts be - lieved; But blessed are those who have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - ia!"

10
For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis - cip - les
Once bound by fear, now bold in faith, they preached the truth and

14
lift their eyes. A - live He stands, their friend and King: Christ, Christ He is ri - sen!
pow'r of grace and pour - ing out their lives they gained life, life ev - er - last - ing.

20

Christ is ri - sen, He is ri - sen in - deed! Oh sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!"

24

Join the chor-us sing with the re-deemed: "Christ is ri-sen, He's ri-sen in - deed!"

29

Where
The pow'r that raised Him from the grave now works in us to pow'r-f'ly save; He

34

frees our hearts to live His grace go, tell of His good - ness.

40

Christ is ri-sen, He is ri-sen in deed! Oh sing "Hal-le - lu - jah!" Join the chor-us sing

45

with the re-deemed: "Christ is ri-sen, He's ri-sen in - deed!" He's a - live

50

He's a - live Hea-ven's gates are op - ned wide. He's a-live He's a-live

55

1. now in Hea - ven glo - ri - fied. He's a-live 2. now in Hea - ven glo - ri - fied.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word | CW 162

WELS CONNECTION

Being part of a larger church body has its benefits; one of which is being able to see and take part in the work of the gospel with like-minded Christians. Thank you for your prayers and support for our church and for our synod.

BLESSED
ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
NOT SEEN
+ AND YET HAVE +
BELIEVED

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Think of the demand Thomas made of Jesus—how drastic! Yet Jesus followed through on that demand. Why does God follow through on some demands and not on others? Have there been times in your life when you've made demands of God? What happened? What do those situations teach you about God?
2. Compare the demeanor of the disciples in John 20 to their demeanor in Acts 5. How would you describe the difference? How is such a shift possible?
3. In Revelation 1:17, John fainted due to fear at seeing the Son of Man in all his glory. The Living One comforted him by saying, "Do not be afraid." See if you can make a list of 10 people in the Bible who responded to God in fear; then see if you can make a list of 10 places where God says to such people, "Do not fear" or "Do not be afraid."
4. Many people have viewed John 20:31 as a great summary of not just the purpose of John's Gospel, but of the whole Bible. Do you agree with that idea? Why or why not?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

Testing the Spirits with God's Perfect Love (1 John 4)
Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.



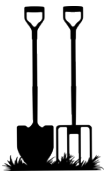
PREPARED TO ANSWER

When you talk to others about religion and other sensitive topics, you might find yourself backed into a conversational corner. You don't want to speak incorrectly or unkindly as you defend your faith, so sometimes you don't say anything at all. Northwestern Publishing House has two bestselling books, *Prepared to Answer* and *More Prepared to Answer*, that will equip you with God's Word for times when you encounter objections to and questions about your faith. We plan to make a bulk order of these two books. The more copies we order, the better price we will receive. Books start at \$17.99. If you would like a copy of either or both of these books, please sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. A sample copy of *Prepared to Answer* is available so you can check out the format and writing style.

WORSHIP ON MONDAY

6:30 p.m.

If you miss Sunday worship, because you were sick, had to work, were out of town, or whatever, please join us on Monday night at 6:30 p.m. It is the same order of service and sermon as Sunday morning.



OUTDOOR CLEAN UP DAY

May 11 | 9:00 a.m.

We will be doing some pruning, tree trimming, lawn care and general cleanup of our grounds on Saturday, May 11. If you have a rake or other tools, please bring them along. Any questions? Contact Brian Johnson at 715-572-6777.

BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

May 12-17

We are holding another Scholastic Book Fair in May, so families can stock up on books for summer reading. All books will be buy one, get one free. To make this a successful event, we need volunteers on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Monday-Friday at 3:30-4:30 p.m. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Karen Obsuszt, 715-451-5970 or karen.obsuszt@gmail.com.



MLC DAY

May 1

Join thousands of Martin Luther College (MLC) supporters across the globe on May 1 to pray for MLC's mission and ministry, to share messages of encouragement online, and to give to support the work. Learn more at mlcday.com.

Watch the MLC Day Facebook page at facebook.com/mlcwels all day to see videos and messages of support. Post your photos, videos, and stories to MLC's Facebook or Instagram pages, #MLCDAY19, or send your prayers, photos, and videos to mlcday@mlc-wels.edu and MLC will post them for you.

THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks go out to all who made our Easter celebrations a success! The sanctuary was filled with the aroma of fresh flowers and was decorated beautifully to enhance our worship. Music echoes in our ears as we recall the sweet sounds of the morning glorifying the Lord for what He has done. The church leaders especially want to thank those who helped with the Easter breakfast. Proceeds from the free will donations will allow us to purchase 45 new Bibles. Leftover food was donated to both fire stations in Wisconsin Rapids. The grateful EMT/firefighters extend their appreciation to the congregation for our support. In all, we worked together to praise our God who has risen from the dead. Alleluia!

ATTENTION SENIORS!

May 8 | 12:00 p.m.

The OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) of Divine Word Lutheran Church invite you to a potluck lunch and a very interesting presentation by retired SPASH cross-country coach Donn Behnke. Over his 38 year career, Donn coached highly successful teams. He has written a book titled *The Animal Keepers* about running, competing, and team building. It includes the story of one special athlete, Scott "The Animal" Longley, a boy with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities, who had incredible enthusiasm and loved to run, compete, and be part of a team.

THE BLESSING TREE

After worship today, you will be given a "Blessing Leaf." Write down a blessing you have received from the Lord and post it on the Blessing Tree in the Welcome Center.



DECISIONS ON STAFFING

On April 22, the voters decided to call Mr. Pahl to serve as a part-time Staff Minister and to request a graduate from Martin Luther College (MLC) to fill his teaching position. Calling a second pastor will be delayed until later this year or early next year. Please pray for Mr. Pahl as he deliberates this call, for the Assignment Committee as they consider our request (along with those of many other congregations), and for our congregation and our other called workers as we anticipate how this will impact our ministry. Graduate assignments will be announced at a special service at MLC on Saturday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. You can watch this service as it occurs at mlc-wels.edu/streams.

LOCAL WALK FOR LIFE

May 11

The local pregnancy resource center, First Choice, is holding their Walk for Life, a 6K run/walk at Lake Wazeecha, on Saturday, May 11 (the day before Mother's Day). The entry donation is \$50, and activities include a raffle, games, pig roast, concessions, and music. For more information visit www.firstchoiceprc.org/walkforlife.

COMING SOON...BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

From Mother's Day through Father's Day, we are holding a "baby bottle fundraiser" for First Choice Pregnancy Resource Centers in Wisconsin Rapids & Stevens Point. You will be given a baby bottle to fill with donations. Look for more details in the monthly newsletter.



SCHEDULE YOUR PHOTO TODAY!

We have volunteers on hand today to help you schedule a FREE session with a professional photographer. You will receive a free 8X10 photo, and we will include your picture in our new church directory. Volunteers are located in the Resource Center. Portraits will be taken June 5-8 & 12-15. If you need to consult your calendar, you can also sign-up by calling the church office or visiting our website (www.stpaulswr.org) and tapping on Schedule Your Photo Session.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 412 Year-to-date average attendance: 246

From July 1, 2018 to April 19, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 804,440

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 828,763 Mortgage Balance \$ 1,522,990

CALENDAR

April 28-May 5

| | | |
|------------------|----------|---|
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School (grades K-5) |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| | 1:00 PM | Budgeting Meeting in the Bible Study Room |
| | 2:00 PM | Adult Co-ed Volleyball in the gym |
| MONDAY | 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 |
| | 4:30 PM | Board of Fellowship in the Welcome Center |
| | 6:30 PM | Stephen Minister 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 in the Bible Study Room |
| | 6:30 PM | Choir Practice in the balcony |
| THURSDAY | 7:00 AM | Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop |
| | 5:30 PM | Handbell Practice in the balcony |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School (grades K-5) |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| | 2:00 PM | Lutheran Pioneers at the Model A Club |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| May 6-10 | Staff Appreciation Week |
| May 11 | Outdoors Clean Up Day |
| May 12 | Mother's Day – Baby Bottle Campaign Begins |
| May 12-17 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| May 19 | Confirmation Sunday |
| June 5-15 | Church Directory Photos |





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