

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

**The promise that he would
inherit the world did not
come to Abraham ...**



**through the law but through
the righteousness of faith.**

Romans 4:13, NRSV

LOOK TO JESUS
AS THE SOURCE OF SALVATION
Second Sunday in Lent

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

March 8, 2020

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

The gift of God comes by faith. Not a holy life, not acts of obedience, but simple trust in the promise of God brings the gift of eternal life in heaven. Abraham believed God's promise and so became not only the father of a nation, but the forefather of the Promised Seed who would bless all peoples. He had faith in God who justifies the wicked, and so God credited it to him as righteousness. By this same faith, Christ gives righteousness to all who believe. So, we continue to look to Jesus as the Source of Salvation!

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is purple, as we solemnly realize our sin makes it impossible for us to win salvation outside of faith in Jesus.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2018 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission: www.wartburgproject.org

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

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us." by Stuart Townsend. © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing). All rights reserved. Used by permission: CCLI #145043

Psalm 121. Refrain Text & Music: Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers. Verses Text & Tune: Public domain. Setting: Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)." by John Newton & Chris Tomlin. Used by permission: CCLI#145043

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.

WELCOME

8:00 SONG BY SCHOOL CHILDREN

13:30 OPENING HYMN

*Let Me Learn of Jesus
Drawn to the Cross | 387*

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.

Congregation (C): And also with you.

Whenever we speak of faith, it's important to be clear about what we believe in. This familiar opening to worship points us to the Triune God, the object of our faith.

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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas-ure, that
2. Be-hold the Man up-on a cross, my sin up-on His shoul-ders. A-
3. I will not boast in an-y-thing; no gifts, no pow'r, no wis-dom. But
He should give His on-ly Son to make a wretch His treas-ure. How
shamed I hear my mock-ing voice call out a-mong the scof-fers. It
I will boast in Je-sus Christ, His death and res-ur-rec-tion. Why
great the pain of sear-ing loss; the Fa-ther turns His face a-way as
was my sin that held Him there un-til it was ac-com-plished; His
should I gain from His re-ward? I can-not give an an-swer. But
wounds which mar the Cho-sen One bring man-y sons to glo-ry.
dy-ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin-ished.
this I know with all my heart; His wounds havepaid my ran-som!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

This little word is meant for the congregation to make the prayers that are said their own. You could roughly say that "Amen" means "I believe this!" or "These words are true!"

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12:1-8

Abram shows incredible trust in God's promises.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**


PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121 | People's Psalter


The first time through, the choir will sing the refrain then all will repeat.

Thereafter, the refrain will be sung once.

Refrain



God will be with us all a - long our way.



God will be with us ev - 'ry night and day.

Choir – To the hills I lift my eyes;
Where shall help and strength arise?
From the Lord will come my aid,
Who all heav'n and earth has made.

Refrain

Choir – God will guide through dangers all,
On your way you will not fall;
God who safe the people keeps
Slumbers not and never sleeps.

Refrain



I lift up my eyes to
the

mountains. Where
does my

Choir – Your protector is the Lord,
Shade for you God will afford;
Neither sun nor moon shall smite,
God shall guard by day and night.

Refrain

Choir – God will ever keep your soul,
What would harm, God will control;
In your home and by the way
God will keep you day by day.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Abram was a forerunner of all who would be justified by faith.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: He humbled himself and became obedient to death,

C: Even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8b)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

The world partakes of the gift of salvation through faith.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

Even in its title, we see a strong connection between this hymn and today's Gospel. There are many more connections--practically every verse of the hymn keys off of some element from John 3.

HYMN - God Loved the World So that He Gave | CW 391

SERMON - God Guarantees Our Inheritance!

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

Clarinet Trio - Amazing Grace

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

M: We pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

M: We pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy burden.

C: **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

M: We pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

Special prayers and intercession may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)



A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like
me! I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. The
Lord has prom - ised good to me; His Word my hope se - cures. He
man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've
will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en - dures. My chains are
grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.
gone, I've been set free. My God, my Sav - ior has ran - somed me. And like a
flood, his mer - cy rains un - end - ing love a - maz - ing grace. Through
When
grace: un - end - ing love a - maz - ing grace.

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: 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 on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink | 405

WELS CONNECTION - Home Missions/Richland Center

We heard of Abraham's strong faith in our readings and sermon today, and so, it's fitting for this hymn to lead us in praying, "Lord, give us such a faith as this!"



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does it help “fill out the story” to consider the background of Nicodemus in John 3? In other words, with him being a member of the Jewish ruling council and a Pharisee, for what reasons would Jesus’ words have been so shocking to him?
2. Notice where Abraham falls in the timeline of Genesis. Everything seems to happen so quickly from creation to the flood to the Tower of Babel to Abraham. Skim over chapter 11 and notice how much time passes just from Babel to Abraham. What could have happened to God’s promises throughout that length of time? What in chapter 12 tells us that Abram was at least somewhat familiar with who God is?
3. James 2:20-24 has something to say about Abraham, faith, and works. How do those verses help us further understand the relationship between faith, works, and salvation?
4. For what reasons is it so important for us to know that God’s promises are guaranteed through faith and not by works? What comforts does that bring you? Could that be concerning in any way? If so, how so?
5. Putting all three readings together, what’s your big takeaway? How would you summarize the main message of these three readings to someone who missed church or is interested about what our church is all about? Try not to use “Look to Jesus as the Source of Salvation.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

WELS & Other Christians
Join cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

LORD'S SUPPER BIBLE STUDY

March 15 | 9:15 AM

Today, we wrap up a very fun series where we looked at the WELS and compared our teachings with other Christian denominations. One thing that became clear is that we, as Lutheran Christians, view this sacrament very differently than many other Christians. So, with that in mind, we will start a new series to discuss the Lord's Supper from a biblical point of view next week. The schedule will be as follows:

March 15 - Why Bread and Wine? - A look at the connections between the Passover and Lord's Supper

March 22 - Why Go if I'm Already Forgiven? - A look at why going to the Lord's Supper is important

March 29 - Why Do We Do It This Way? - A look at our worship practices surrounding the Lord's Supper

April 5 - Why Can't Everyone Come? - A look at our fellowship practices surrounding the Lord's Supper

April 12 - No Bible Class (Easter Sunday)

April 19 - New series on the Prophet Isaiah!

RSVP TODAY!

The baby shower for Pastor & Amy Proeber is next Saturday, March 14 at 1:00. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet on the Ministry Table today, March 8. You can also call Carol Newsom at 715-424-2608 or Sue Kulhanek at 715-421-4414. There is a list of gift ideas by the signup sheet.



All ladies are invited to stay after the shower for the March Willing Workers meeting. See what the group is all about! *Willing Workers members, please note the change in date and time from the scheduled meeting.*

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

March 25 | 4:45-6:00 PM

St. Paul's Youth (SPYs) will be preparing the fellowship meal on Wednesday, March 25. Proceeds from this meal will help defray the cost for them to attend the WELS Youth Rally this summer, so please consider throwing something extra in the basket that day.

ORDINATION/INSTALLATION SERVICE

March 29 | 4:00 PM

Peter Plagenz will be ordained and installed as our associate pastor during a special service on Sunday, March 29. A meal will be served afterwards. We hope you will attend to welcome and encourage our new pastor and his family.

VOLUNTEER FOR EASTER FOR KIDS

April 4 | 9:00-11:45 AM

Families are starting to register their children for Easter for Kids. You can share the joy of Easter with them by volunteering for the event. There are a variety of ways you can put your talents and abilities to work. There are jobs that require creativity, and those that are more routine. You can work with people or work with things. Our sign-up is available online (see the Serve tab on our website) or on the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center.

MEAL HELPER REMINDER

Wednesdays | 4:45-6:00 PM

If you attend the fellowship meals on Wednesdays, we ask that you help with food prep, serving, or clean up as your schedule allows. Desserts to share are also appreciated.

Last names A-J help on Feb. 26 & March 18

Last names K-O help on March 4 & 25

Last names P-Z help on March 11 & April 1



WELS HOME MISSIONS

WELS Home Missions is blessed to plant churches and assist mission-minded congregations in the United States, Canada, and English-speaking West Indies. Home Missions currently supports 126 congregations with financial subsidy or district mission board/mission counselor assistance, with 26 of those being cross-cultural mission congregations. Find out how WELS is reaching our neighbors right here in North America at wels.net/missions.

HELP BUILD A CHURCH IN ADAMS, WI

Ten years ago, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Mauston started holding worship services in Adams (about 30 miles south of here). In 2012, the Adams congregation called their own pastor. Now they are ready to move out of rented space. Construction on a church building begins this spring. You can be a part of the project. All skill levels are welcome whether you have a background in construction or simply want to lend a helping hand. Builders for Christ is coordinating volunteers through WELS Kingdom Workers. For more information, visit kingdomworkers.com/volunteer.

SUPPORT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVERY DAY

Did you know your everyday purchases could help pay teachers and buy text books? Scrip is available for many local gas stations, grocery stores, and restaurants. Those businesses without their own scrip cards will usually take VISA or Discover gift cards purchased through the program. When you purchase these gift cards, the school earns a small amount of the face value (usually around 4%). Last month, our school earned a total about \$635 through this program. To find out more, talk to someone at the scrip table on Sunday, or visit www.stpaulswr.org/scrip.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 232

YTD Average attendance: 237

From July 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$702,063

Actual cost of ministry: \$741,965

Mortgage balance: \$1,409,584

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 14 Baby Shower for the Proebers
- Mar. 25 Youth Rally Fundraiser
- Mar. 29 Ordination & Installation Service
- Apr. 4 Easter for Kids



Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter!

Make Projects
Make & eat snacks
Play Games
Sing songs

EASTER for Kids

Register at stpaulswr.org Ages 3-10
Babysitting provided

APRIL 4, 2020
9:00 TO 11:45 am
Lunch to follow
St Paul's Lutheran Church 311 14th Ave S
(across from Splash Pad)

© 2019 Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All rights reserved.

CALENDAR

March 8-15

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|--|
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106 |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| | 2:00 PM | Adult Co-ed Volleyball |
| | 3:00 PM | Lent/Easter concert at NLHS |
| MONDAY | 6:30 PM | A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room |
| 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 |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:00 AM | School Chapel Service |
| | 4:00 PM | Midweek Lenten Service |
| | 4:45 PM | Lenten Fellowship Meal (Meal Helpers P-Z) |
| | 5:30 PM | Handbells in the balcony |
| | 6:30 PM | Midweek Lenten Service |
| | 7:30 PM | Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room |
| | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice in the Balcony |
| THURSDAY | 7:00 AM | Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop |
| | 2:00 PM | Hafermann Singers at Atrium Care Center |
| | 6:00 PM | Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym |
| SATURDAY | 1:00 PM | Baby Shower for the Proebers in the cafeteria Willing Workers Meeting after the shower |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday School for grades 4K-6 in Room 106 |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| | 2:00 PM | Adult Co-ed Volleyball |
| | 6:30 PM | Leadership Council in the Bible Study Room |



www.stpaulswr.org

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