

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**LOOK TO JESUS AS THE WATER OF LIFE**  
*The Third Sunday in Lent*

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

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*March 15, 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 give you directions or answer your other questions.

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

We continue to look to Jesus as we draw closer to the cross of Calvary each week. This week, we focus on the concept of the water of life. In Scripture and Christian hymns alike, the world is referred to as a wilderness or "a desert drear" (CW 417 "I'm But a Stranger Here"). We are parched and dried up by the sinfulness of our hearts and the sin of this world. What Psalm 42:1 says holds true in every age: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." But God comes to our aid. Notice the words of the Verse of the Day and the Gospel especially, as Jesus speaks and acts to quench our spiritual thirst for all eternity.

The liturgical color<sup>1</sup> for this Sunday is purple, as we solemnly realize our sin makes it impossible for us to win salvation outside of faith in Jesus.

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

# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

*Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening* | CW 283

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

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.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

**C: 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.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

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

C: ♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. CW p.28  
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. ♪

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*The Word*

*The Bible makes clear that "faith comes from hearing the message...of Christ" (Romans 10:17). This is why we place such an emphasis on God's Word throughout our worship services and our lives.*

### FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 17:1-7*

*God graciously provided water for the grumbling Israelites.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

*Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord (Psalm 95) | CW p.46*

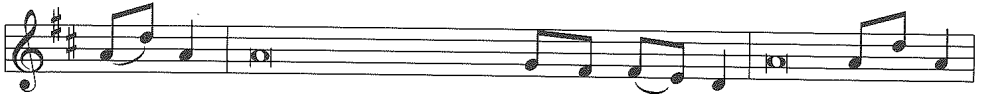
**C:** Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of  
our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a  
great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

## SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-8

*Stubborn and sinful though we are, Christ died for us.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Let the one who is thirsty come;

C: **and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.** (Rev. 22:17 NIV)

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL

John 4:5-26

*Jesus patiently pursues sinners to give them the water of life.*

*After the reading, the announcement is made:*

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

*Children of all ages are welcome to come up to the front for a brief object lesson. Parents of especially young or nervous children, feel free to come up with your child!*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## HYMN

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say | CW 338*

## SERMON - Thirsty? Drink from the Water of Life!

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Nicene Creed*

**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**

#### **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.**

# The Sacrament

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## THE PREFACE

CW p. 33

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ! In love he has blessed us with every

spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 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.

*Notice there's a sentence in the middle of this paragraph that changes with the season of the church year and highlights the focus of that particular season. The second sentence wonderfully focuses us on the sacrifice of Christ.*

C: **♪ Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

**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.**

CW p. 34

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

CW p.35

C: **♪ Amen.**

**C: ♪ 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; 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**

*Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | CW 309  
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | CW 311*

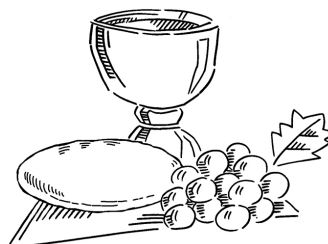
*Please stand.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

*| to tune CW 334*

**C: ♪ O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee  
My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
On me thy body and thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart -  
How blest am I! How good thou art! ♪**



M: Let us pray together.

**C: 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.**

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 upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen. ♪**

*Be seated.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness | CW 353*

*Verse 2 of this hymn is especially fitting for this Sunday: "Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand!"*



## TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

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1. Connections, connections, connections—Exodus 17 and John 4 have some obvious connections. But perhaps Romans 5 is a little less obvious. Revisit all three readings to especially connect thoughts from Romans 5:1-8 to the other two readings.
  
2. There are a lot of things to cover in John 4:
  - a. History tells us that women would go to draw water in groups and in the cooler parts of the day. With what we find out about the Samaritan woman in verses 16-18, why might she have gone out to get water by herself in the hottest part of the day? How might someone in our day act the same way?
  
  - b. Verse 9 mentions that Jews do not associate with Samaritans. What other cultural barrier(s) was Jesus breaking? What broader implications does that have for us today?
  
  - c. Looking at vs. 16-18, what conclusions can we draw about the woman? Notice that nothing prompted Jesus to bring up her husband. But in bringing up the topic of marriage, what was Jesus doing for the woman?
  
  - d. The woman's story keeps going to John 4:42. Read the rest of those verses and come up with two big takeaways from those verses.
  
3. It's obvious that we can grumble and complain against God, just like the Israelites in Exodus 17. Verse 7 is most striking: "Is the LORD among us or not?" Come up with at least four Scriptural promises God makes when we ask that question in our lives.
  
4. Agree or disagree: It is unfair that God puts the faith of some to the test constantly while he doesn't seem to test the faith of others at all.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Lord's Supper: Why Bread and Wine?  
Join cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

### **LORD'S SUPPER BIBLE STUDY**

*March 15 | 9:15 AM*

Lutheran Christians view the Lord's Supper very differently than many other Christians. With that in mind, we start a new Sunday morning Bible study series discussing the Lord's Supper from a biblical point of view. 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!



### **HELP WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR**

*March 29 | 4:00 PM*

Come welcome our new pastor, Peter Plagenz and his family. The ordination/installation service is Sunday, March 29. We need someone or some group to organize the meal that will follow the service. The meal could be a potluck, catered food, food prepared on site, or some combination of these. We also need people to set up the gym (tables, chairs, and decorations) and clean up after the meal. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact Randy DeBoer at 715-572-1573.

### **EASTER FOR KIDS COMING SOON**

*April 4 | 9:00-11:45 AM*

Easter for Kids is just three weeks away. To help with planning, families are encouraged to pre-register. There are forms on the Ministry Table, or you can register online. If you have the morning free, we also need volunteers. To see what positions are open, see the sign up on the Ministry Table or look for the link on our website under the Serve tab.

## **WATCH US ONLINE**

If you can't make it to church, you can always watch us online. The services are usually streamed live, the 8:00 service on our website and the 10:30 service on facebook. If you can't watch it live, the services are also archived there. The services are also shown on public access TV (Solarus HD Ch. 3 and Charter Ch. 985) on Wednesdays at 3:00PM and on Sundays at 6:00PM.

## **SCRIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

St. Paul's scrip program is seeking volunteers to sell scrip on Sunday mornings. They also need someone to process the card delivery on Wednesdays. For more information contact Deb DeWilde at 715-569-4018 or [stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com).

If you have been considering using the Shop with Scrip site ([www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)) to place your orders, please note that our enrollment code has changed. You will need to use the new code (574FCC7712591) when setting up your account. Any questions, should be directed to Deb DeWilde (715-569-4018 or [stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com)).

## **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH**

*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.

## **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](http://kingdomworkers.com/volunteer).

## **MEAL HELPER REMINDER**

*Wednesdays | 4:45-6:00 PM*

For this Wednesday's lenten meal, we ask members with last names A-J to help with prep, serving, or clean up as your schedule allows. Desserts to share are also appreciated.

## THANK YOU THRIVENT MEMBERS

The church & school just received \$1,280 from Thrivent Financial through their Thrivent Choice program. Eligible members of Thrivent can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding based on their insurance premiums, contract values, or volunteer leadership. To learn more, visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or contact your local Thrivent representative.

## WELS NIGHT AT MILLER PARK

July 24

Tickets are on sale now for the annual WELS Night at Miller Park! Each year thousands of WELS members gather for an evening of fellowship and fun, and you can join them for the Milwaukee Brewers' game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday, July 24. Game time is 7:10 p.m. The Brewers are again offering WELS members up to 50 percent off the price of tickets. Get tickets at [brewers.com/wels](http://brewers.com/wels).

## LEARN ABOUT WELS MISSIONS

See and hear about the WELS mission work reaching souls throughout the world at the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) convention in Athens, Georgia July 25-28. Discounts for early registration end on April 1. Learn about speakers, workshops, and more at [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org). Please note, all LWMS events are also open to men.

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 252

YTD Average attendance: 238

From July 1, 2019 to March 6, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$727,113

Actual cost of ministry: \$782,056

Mortgage balance: \$1,409,584



**Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter!**

Make Projects  
Play Games  
Make & eat snacks  
Sing songs

**EASTER for Kids**

Register at [stpaulswr.org](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
(across from Splash Pad)

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# CALENDAR

March 15-22

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	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
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM	A People Close to God in the Bible Study Room
<b>TUESDAY</b>	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 Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	4:00 PM	<b>Midweek Lenten Service</b>
	4:45 PM	<b>Lenten Fellowship Meal</b> (Meal Helpers A-J)
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	<b>Midweek Lenten Service</b>
	7:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
<b>SUNDAY</b>	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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 25 Youth Rally Fundraiser
- Mar. 29 Ordination & Installation Service
- Apr. 4 Easter for Kids





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