

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Unless a grain of *wheat* falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it



bears much fruit.

John 12:24, NRSV

JESUS CHRIST: SERVANT OF ALL

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. For worshippers joining us in person, we are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer.

If you are worshipping online, we would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our online Connect Card to let us know where you're worshipping from and how we might continue to serve you. You can find a link at www.stpaulswr.org/watch. You can also contact us with any questions or prayer requests via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634).

SPECIAL GUIDELINES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- † **Please practice social distancing whenever possible.** Keep close personal interactions to a minimum, especially when inside the building. Please feel free to worship from the Welcome Center, if you feel uncomfortable with the number of people in the sanctuary.
- † **Please practice good hygiene.** Masks, hand sanitizer, and kleenex are available in the Welcome Center. Our restrooms are located along the hallway on the west side of the worship space.
- † **Large print service folders, hearing devices, and printouts of the Bible readings and hymns** are available on the Information Booth in the Welcome Center, if you need them.
- † **Your offering and connect card** can be placed in the slots on the top of the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If you have a smartphone, you can fill out the online connect card. Empty offering plates will be brought forward and placed on the altar to symbolize our sacrifice to God.
- † **Children's bulletins** can be picked up at the Information Booth in the Welcome Center. If your children become fussy, you can quiet them in the Welcome Center. The Children's Message will still take place. However, the children will not be invited forward. Please keep them with you in your pew.

† **Please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.** Following post-service announcements, pastor(s) will leave down the side aisles and head outside to greet you. Ushers will dismiss worshipers from the back moving forward; and down the center aisle, as well as the side aisles. This is to minimize personal contact. Please take this service folder with you and dispose of it properly.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



Judgment. It's not a pretty word because it brings up thoughts of punishment and pain. We see judgment and suffering today, especially in the Gospel reading. But we also see the results of suffering, especially when that suffering is taken on as a means of service. Today, we see Jesus as the Servant of All. Since he has served all through his suffering, we also see the wonderful benefits all receive by faith in him. We want to see Jesus; and see Jesus we shall.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is purple, which is both a color of repentance, but also a color of royalty. Even though Jesus is the King of the universe, he serves us with his life.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 11 of this service folder.

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¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the pulpit, and the altar.

DIVINE SERVICE II

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian Church intended to be used when Holy Communion is celebrated.

WELCOME

HYMN

*Drawn to the Cross | CW 387
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister (M): In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

sung to the tune in CW 591

♪ **All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**

♪ O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share. ♪

*As we draw nearer and nearer
to the cross of Christ, we do
well to continue to remember
what that cross means for us —
peace, grace, and mercy!*

The Word

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

The blessings of Jesus' service abound!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121 | CW p.112

Pastors will sing the verses. All sing the refrain and "Glory be to the Father."

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 5:7-9

Through the Savior's service, you are saved!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SONG BY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Do You Know Who Died for Me?

Please stand.

GOSPEL - John 12:20-33

The Father is glorified through selfless service.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

The original text of this hymn has ten verses, all of which poetically speak about the Savior's service and how Christians rightly respond to such love. The tenth verse was considered to be so beautiful by WELS pastor Kurt Eggert that he used it to create another hymn – Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See – CW 219.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth | CW 100
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

SERMON

God Gathers Glory

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.

THANK OFFERING

Members of St. Paul's 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. 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

Remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Dear God, heavenly Father, how great is your love for us! You willingly sent your beloved Son to a world of sinful rebels. The innocent one came to serve the guilty, but his own people rejected him, and his enemies tortured him and put him to death.
- C:** **Because you did not withhold your one and only Son but let him take our guilt on himself to set us free, we praise your holy name.**
- M:** Dear Son of God, our brother, how great is your love for us! You allowed yourself to be condemned so that we could be declared not guilty. Fill our hearts with the same self-sacrificing love that you showed us. You allowed no suffering, no fear, and no doubt to swerve you from your path to Calvary.
- C:** **Give us the same single-minded dedication and unshakable commitment as we daily take up our cross and follow you.**

M: Dear Holy Spirit, how great is your love for us! By Word and sacrament you have warmed and transformed our foolish and stubborn hearts, making us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and receptive to his gospel of forgiveness. Hold his cross before our eyes that we may dedicate our lives to him who died for us. Make us strong in the hour of temptation.

C: Lead us to love and serve our neighbor as unselfishly as Christ has loved and served us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Keep us in the true faith in unity with all faithful Christians, and grant us a blessed death.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Please stand.

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

PREFACE *(spoken)*

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 good and right so to do.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing.* Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - *Sanctus*

sung to the tune in CW 372

♪ **O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.** ♪

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth.

We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

We give thanks to God both before and after receiving Christ's body and blood, much like a Christian might pray before and after a meal.

C: **Amen.**

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.

C: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD - *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated and await the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, one of the pastors would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

Please stand.

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*

sung to the tune in CW 372

♪ **O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten all gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory of those in Israel!** ♪

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Draw Us to Thee | CW 170

Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastors; 5-All

This hymn plays off of a verse from today's Gospel reading, John 12:32 – "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Thus, it is right to sing and pray, "Draw us to thee, Lord!"

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The opening verses of Isaiah 43 are very comforting. But take a look at the previous chapter, especially verses 18-25. How are those verses different from chapter 43? What reasons might exist for this dramatic shift? How can God say both of these things, and both be true?
2. When Isaiah wrote these words Babylon, the empire that would take the Jews into captivity, wasn't even a nation yet. Why would these words be especially comforting to the Jews in Babylon reading them centuries later?
3. In John 12 Jesus talks about what's coming for him in Holy Week as a way he is glorified. (Read Matthew 26:36-27:61 for a refresher of Jesus' passion.) What adjectives would you use to describe those events? How on earth can Jesus describe them as glorious? (Hint: Reread the second reading, Hebrews 5:8-9.)
4. With all three readings (Isaiah 43:1-7, Hebrews 5:7-10, John 12:20-33), where does God teach us to look for glory in our lives?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

The Theology of the Cross

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

For the google meet link, contact a pastor.

SHARE EASTER HOPE

St. Paul's bookstore has a selection of Easter picture books that make great additions to Easter baskets. Pick out an Easter card to send to your loved one far away. You can find these seasonal items on display in the Welcome Center.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP

March 24 | 4:45-6:00 PM

On Wednesday, St. Paul's Youth will be serving our final fellowship meal of Lent. The freewill offering will help fund this ministry.

SIGN UP FOR EASTER BREAKFAST

Our Easter breakfast is a go. We will be serving from 8:00 to 9:00-ish between the two Easter morning services (7:00 & 9:30). Tables and chairs will be distanced, but we will not have assigned seats. To help planning, we will be sending out an electronic sign up via SignUp Genius, so keep your eyes open for that email. You can also sign up by calling, stopping in, or emailing the church office.

"AT-RISK" SERVICES ENDING

This Monday will be our last service for "at-risk" individuals. After Easter, on April 12, we will resume our 6:30 PM Monday night services. These services will be alike to our Sunday services including congregational singing and continuous distribution of communion. For more information, please see the monthly newsletter.

YES, YOU CAN STILL BUY A LILY!

If you are still interested in purchasing a flower for Easter, you are welcome to buy whatever type is listed on the flower chart even if the slots are filled. Just add your name where it will fit. Fewer slots were included, so a larger selection of flowers could be listed. Remember, orders are due by next Sunday, March 28.

MUSICAL HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

Martin Luther College (MLC) has put together special devotions for holy week featuring music from their music department. Each devotion will highlight a different hymn. Since the devotions include musical recording, they are available online only. However, you can download them, read and listen online, or have them emailed to you. Find out more at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions. Reminder: Holy week starts next Sunday, March 28.

MEN OF HIS WORD VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

April 17

Are you feeling disconnected, isolated, alone, separated from others? Social distancing can take a toll on our mental and spiritual health. You are invited to join the Men of His Word Conference via Zoom on Saturday, April 17. The keynote speaker (Mike Novotny from Time of Grace) and two presenters will remind you that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35), which also binds us to one another. Though we may be separated, we remain united. Additional details and online registration (\$15) are available at www.menofhisword.org.

LWMS ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 2021 CONVENTION

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) 2021 convention will be virtual again this year. At this time, Ohio has gathering restrictions limited to 300 people and it's uncertain how that would change by June. Some of the exciting speakers will be from Rev. Allen Kirschbaum, Spirit of Life, Caledonia, MI; Rev. Ryan Kolander, Palabra de Vida, Detroit; Gary and Beth Evans, Central Africa Medical Mission; and Rev. Stephen Wiesenauer, East Asia Mission. Additional workshops are planned. All videos will be posted June 24-27 on the LWMS website (lwms.org).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 151

From July 1, 2020 to March 11, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 745,382

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 804,873

Mortgage balance: \$1,280,170

Certain hope
FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 4

In person Worship

at 7:00 & 9:30AM

Breakfast served 8:00-9:00AM

Online worship at

stpaulswr.org

or [facebook.com/stpaulswr](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulswr)

CALENDAR

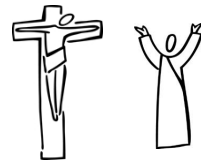
March 21-28

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball
MONDAY	11:00 AM	Worship for at-risk individuals
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
	4:00 pm	Contemporary Choir in balcony
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	Chapel Service
	4:00 PM	Midweek Lent Service
	4:45 PM	Lenten Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria
	5:30 PM	Handbells in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Midweek Lent Service
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:00 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
	6:30 PM	Foundations of the Christian Faith in the Resource Center
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Catechism Class in the Resource Center
	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
	2:00 PM	Adult Co-ed Volleyball



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 4:00 & 6:30PM
Good Friday, April 2 at 12:10 & 6:30PM
Easter Sunday, April 4 at 7:00 & 9:30AM





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