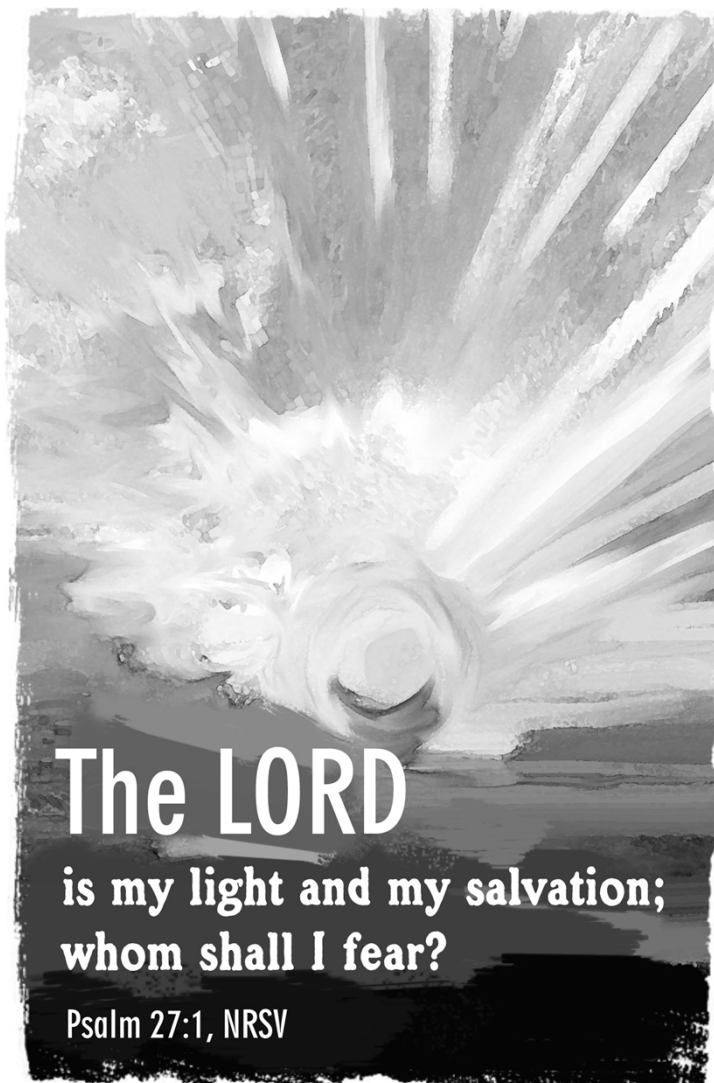


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



The LORD

**is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

Psalm 27:1, NRSV

LOOK TO JESUS AS THE GIVER
OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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 light of the world brings sight to the blind and judgment to the blinded. Faith means seeing Jesus as Savior: like the bronze serpent, we look on him and live. We were born in the blindness of sin, and without the light of Christ we could not find a way to safety. Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Yet for those who refuse to see their Savior in Christ, the blindness of unbelief remains. He gives gracious sight to the blind who trust in him; he gives blinding judgment on those who reject him; finally, he displays the work of God in the lives of those who now walk in the light of Christ.

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.

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PSALM 25. Refrain, Tune and setting: Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago IL. Psalm Tone, Tune and setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer.

771 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." Text, Tune & Setting: Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration. 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.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is the World's Light | CW 343

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.**

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.

C: **♪ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him. ♪**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

God promises to bring salvation to the blind and judgment on those who reject him.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27 | CW p. 75

Refrain: ♪ **The Lord is my light and my salvation--
of whom shall I be afraid,
of whom shall I be afraid?**

♪ **Hear my voice when I 'call, O LORD;*
Be merciful to me and 'answer me.
Do not hide your 'face from me,*
Do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my 'helper.
Do not reject me or for'sake me,*
O God my 'Savior.**

Refrain

♪ **Though my father and mother for'sake me,*
The LORD will re'ceive me.**

I am still confi'dent of this:*

**I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the 'living.
Wait 'for the LORD;***

Be strong and take heart and wait 'for the LORD.

♪ **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

Ephesians 5:8-14

Since we have seen the Light, we now live in the light.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

C: that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

The Light of the World shines through our blindness.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | CW 379

SERMON - Jesus, Give Us Your Eyes!

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. 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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.

Be seated.

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light | CWS 771



1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God;
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ;



I want to fol-low Je-sus.
 I want to look at Je-sus.
 I want to be with Je-sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world;
 Clear Sun of Right-eous-ness, shine on my path
 When we have run with pa-tience the race,



The star of my life is Je-sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa-ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all; The



night and the day are both a-like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit-y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

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

O Christ, Our True and Only Light | CW 569



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Some talk about a “wilderness construction project” being brought up throughout the book of Isaiah. Notice all the things in nature God says he will change. Read Luke 3:3-6 to get an idea of what exactly Isaiah was pointing to.
2. “Walking in the light” is an important theme throughout Scripture. Psalms 56 and 89; Isaiah 2, 9, 50, and 59; John 8 and 12; Ephesians 5; 1 John 1; and Revelation 21 all touch on this theme. Read those chapters, taking note of what all is including as part of “walking in the light.”
 - a. At a time like this, how can you still work at walking in the light?
3. It’s easy to point out the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees in John 9. Think about at least three situations in which, looking back, you realize you had been spiritually blind or stubborn—if you’re anything like me, there are way more than three to choose from!
 - a. What was it that finally broke through the blindness/stubbornness?
 - b. How does God’s Word bring you comfort for such times?
4. One of the saddest parts of John 9 is that the just-until-recently-blind man was telling the Pharisees the truth—and they refused to believe him. Remind you of anyone else in the Bible? Hint: it was more than just this man and Jesus.
5. If you want to recall the accounts of Jesus going through similar questioning and refusal, you can read the Passion accounts in Matthew 27:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:66-71; and John 18:19-24.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE STILL OPEN

The church office remains open Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:00PM. You can stop in to drop off donations and purchase scrip. You can also call or email if you have any questions: 715-421-3634 ~ churchoffice@stpaulswr.org.

WHAT ABOUT COMMUNION?

Pastor Proeber can meet with you privately to celebrate the sacrament. Please contact him via text, email, or phone to schedule a time. His phone number is 989-780-3184 and his email address is pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org

OFFERINGS

We still need to support our called workers and pay the mortgage even if we are not having worship gatherings, so your regular offerings continue to be important. You can bring in your offering envelope or mail it. Online giving options can be found on our website under the GIVE tab (www.stpaulswr.org/give).

PRAYER REQUESTS?

To ensure your prayer requests are received before the Sunday service, please send them before 2:00PM on Friday. If you have a last minute request, please call or text Pastor Proeber: 989-780-3184. Other options: Call 715-421-3634; email churchoffice@stpaulswr.org; our website: www.stpaulswr.org/prayers; and Facebook messenger.

PANTRY SHOWER FOR THE PLAGENZES

We will continue to collect non-perishable food and cleaning or paper products for our new pastor's family. However, if you are unable to come to the church, feel free to call the office to request a pick-up or donate via check or scrip by sending the donation to the church. When making your grocery selections, please keep in mind that Mrs. Plagenz has a gluten-intolerance.

EASTER FOR KIDS CANCELLED

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or helped promote this event.

PURCHASE SCRIP ONLINE

If you regularly purchase scrip on Sunday morning, you may want to set up an online account at www.shopwwithscrip.com. Direction can be found on our website, www.stpaulswr.org/scrip, or contact Deb DeWilde (715-569-4018) and she will help you. Our enrollment code is 574FCC7712591. You also set up PrestoPay and pay for your order online. To receive physical gift cards, you must submit your order by Sunday morning. The cards are usually delivered to the church on Wednesday afternoon and will be placed in your mailslots. You can also purchase virtual cards for some businesses, which are immediately available for you to use online or to print and take with you. If you have any questions, please contact Deb DeWilde at 715-569-4018 or stpaulsscripwr@gmail.com.

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.

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.

OFFERING REPORT

From July 1, 2019 to March 13, 2020

Actual ministry income:	\$754,225
Actual cost of ministry:	\$806,355
Mortgage balance:	\$1,400,633





www.stpaulswr.org

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