

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

... **repentance** and
forgiveness of sins
is to be **proclaimed**

in

HIS

NAME

to all nations ...

LUKE 24:47, NRSV

THE RISEN SAVIOR GIVES US PURPOSE

Third Sunday of Easter

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

April 18, 2021



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

“You are witnesses of these things.” These are words we hear from Jesus in today’s Gospel reading. Peter affirms them in his sermon in the First Reading. John shows that he witnessed the things Jesus spoke about in the Second Reading. But just what have we witnessed? Yes, Christ is risen! Alleluia! But we are also witnesses of the message of repentance and forgiveness that is being preached to all nations, just as we see in all three readings. This is our purpose—to share this message of repentance and forgiveness that all centers on the risen Christ.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, which reminds us of the heavenly purpose God has given us.

Today’s service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 10 of this service folder.

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

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus | CW 351
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

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.
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. ♪

CW p.28

*The line we sing three times
("O Lord, our Lord...") is
actually borrowed from Psalm
8, where David writes about
the amazing things God has
done for his creation.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:1-20

Peter and John carry out their purpose.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 150 | CWS

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

Refrain



Ho - ly is God, the Lord of hosts! Ho - ly is



God, the Lord of hosts! Ho-ly is God, the Lord of hosts!

Psalm Tone



Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Refrain

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with strings and flute,

praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:5-2:2

If we fail to confess our sins, we lose our purpose.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness.

C: **Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance. Alleluia!** (2 Peter 3:9)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

Jesus opens our minds to understand our mission.

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.

The first three verses summarize the events leading up to Easter Sunday; the final two verses focus on the impact Easter has on the Church, including carrying out the purpose of proclaiming "the glad tidings that all may rejoice."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

*He's Risen, He's Risen | CW 143
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-Pastors; 5-All*

SERMON

It's Amazing What God Can Do!

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. 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: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special Prayers and intercession may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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

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 raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.* 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.

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

| CW p. 34

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.

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.

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

If you are in need of gluten free wafers or grape juice, please ask for directions from an usher.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | CW 311
Please sing the verses as you feel comfortable.*

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

| CW p. 36

C: ♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise.
Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises
And leads his people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Alleluia! ♪

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.

Having received forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, we thank the Lord for his gifts and pray that he will grant us faith to use them in love toward our neighbor.

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

Christ High Ascended | CW 558

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

What amazing things God can do through us! We are his witnesses, carrying the name of Christ into the world.



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Acts 3 follows a similar pattern of John 9, where Jesus heals a man who was born blind. Compare the two, noting where there are similarities and differences.

2. While a healing like the one in Acts 3 might certainly draw a crowd today, what other miracles has God given us to reach people?

3. Think about how preaching repentance and forgiveness fulfills the purpose of the church. Some questions to get the gears turning:
 - a. Where (or to whom) does repentance and forgiveness lead a person?

 - b. What happens when repentance and forgiveness are NOT preached?

 - c. Why might this not be a popular approach in the eyes of the world?

 - d. Notice the premium we place on the message repentance and forgiveness in a normal Sunday worship service. How many times do these things appear throughout the hour of worship?

4. Throughout the Old Testament (especially in Isaiah), the title “The Holy One” is used for God. We can see uses of this title or references to it in all three of today’s readings. First, see if you can find them. What extra facet of God’s amazing plan do we see in this exercise?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY **Ephesians**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



PREPARING TO PROCLAIM

Do you want to become more comfortable in proclaiming repentance and forgiveness in Jesus' name? *Preparing to Proclaim* is a free online Bible study that explores some myths and mistruths we tend to believe about evangelism, common obstacles we face, and mindset shifts we can make to drive out fear and replace it with God's love, power and self-discipline. The study includes a study guide, introductory videos for each lesson, interactive survey questions & polls, and automated progress tracking. This four-lesson study can be found at praiseandproclaim.com/free-bible-study.

DIME & DOLLAR COMING SOON TO WISCONSIN RAPIDS!

We are thrilled to announce that Dime and Dollar Thrift Store will soon be relocating from Stevens Point to Wisconsin Rapids. This store helps fund Northland Lutheran High School, and around the end of June/early July, it will open at its new location next to LaTaqueria and across from Pick-N-Save on the corner of the Riverview Expressway and 8th Street. The new store will probably start taking donations in late May, so if you have items to donate, please hang on for a bit longer.

The store's volunteer base is growing, but they can always use your help - with the move and in a regular position at the new location. To volunteer, call Jan Peronto at 715-421-3365 (home) or 715-340-2809 (cell), or email at JKP111310@gmail.com. More information will be coming, but pencil in May 20th as the initial moving date. If you have a pickup truck and/or trailer, they need your help with the move! Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and the monthly newsletter.



Mark Your Calendar
CHURCH IN THE PARK
June 13 at 10:30AM in Robinson Park



FREEDOM FOR THE CAPTIVES

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Freedom for the Captives is a WELS-affiliated organization that promotes awareness, provides training on prevention as well as offers resources to help abuse victims heal spiritually and emotionally. Find out how you can help and access free training at freedomforthecaptives.com.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION IS DIGITAL

All you need is your mobile phone! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit our school's earnings online. Twice a year, our school receives a check. This works whether you shop for in-person or online and whether you have paper or digital receipts! Learn more at www.boxtops4education.com. Thank you for supporting our school!

VIRTUAL MISSION RALLY

April 24

The Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) will once again hold their spring rally virtually. The meeting and reports will be posted on the Wisconsin River Valley LWMS YouTube channel. For missionary presentations, they recommend viewing "Moments with Missionaries" videos at welstasteandsee.com

BRING IN YOUR MITE BOX

Although the mission rally is virtual, real mission work continues throughout our synod. If you have been saving coins in a mite box, or just want to give an extra gift to missions, please bring in your money by April 25, and we will pass it on to our LWMS circuit. This spring, they are supporting the mission in Hong Kong and the purchasing of vans for missions in the USA. For more information on these mission projects, visit LWMS.org, tap on Mission Projects, and then the Mission Projects Booklet.

LWMS VIRTUAL CONVENTION

June 24-27

After hours of prayer, discussion, and research, the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society board made the difficult decision to hold a small virtual convention this year instead of the in-person convention in Ohio. You are asked to REGISTER FOR FREE by June 7. While you register you will be able to sign up for the Annual Business Meeting, the interactive IGNITE session, and virtual chat rooms to bring everyone together for some virtual fellowship.

CALENDAR

April 18-25

| | | |
|------------------|----------|---|
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday 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 | 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 |
| | 4:00 pm | Contemporary Choir in the balcony |
| | 4:30 pm | Choir in the balcony |
| | 6:30 pm | Leadership Council in the Resource Center |
| | 6:30 pm | Willing Workers in the cafeteria |
| WEDNESDAY | 8:55 AM | Chapel Service |
| | 5:30 PM | Handbells in the balcony |
| | 6:30 PM | Bible Book Group in the Resource Center |
| THURSDAY | 7:00 AM | Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop |
| | 1:00 pm | Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday 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 |

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 170

From July 1, 2020 to April 15, 2021

Actual ministry income: \$ 841,891

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 915,780

Mortgage balance: \$1,269,547





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