

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Then beginning with Moses
and all the prophets, he interpreted
to them the things about himself in
all the scriptures.

Luke 24:27, NRSV



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR PLANS FALL
THROUGH?
- WHEN ALL WE CAN DO IS GO FOR A WALK -

Third Sunday of Easter

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

April 26, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. 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 via email or phone (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634) with any questions or prayer requests.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Hope Restored. The certain hope of eternal life with God is founded on the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of Christ. God had promised this ancient hope in the Garden at the dawn of time. God had carried this ancient hope in his Word through the ages. How did the disciples fail to anticipate the resurrection? How did the teachers and people of Israel fail to see the Messiah God had promised and delivered? They let their wants and cultural expectations color their view of Scripture, and hope was lost. But God restored this ancient hope by raising Jesus from the dead and pointing his people back to his promises.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, signifying the victory and perfection that comes to believers through faith in Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

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

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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

In Christ Alone | CWS 752

**1 In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when
strivings cease! My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**2 In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**3 There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

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.**

*We worship the same Triune
God as our Christian
brothers and sisters around
the globe. What an amazing
connection!*

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. *The Lamb | CWS 714 (1,4,5)*



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their
 4 He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and
 5 He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now



sac - ri - fice? Faith sees, be - lieves God
 of - fer - ing. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let
 shep - herd kill So still, his will, On
 wretch - ed - ness. He lives, for - gives, He
 o - ver - flows. His song pro - long 'Til



will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
 our be - half the law to fill.
 gives me his own right - eous - ness.
 ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain

Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:14a, 32-41

Peter brings the truth of law and gospel to the crowds of Jerusalem.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 67 | CW p. 91

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:17-21

We have a sure hope and certain faith in God!

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: Our hearts were burning within us while he talked to us on the road

C: and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus walks with his disciples to point them to the truth.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

We stand during the reading of the Gospel to show respect for the words and works of Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Stay with Us | CWS 780

This hymn contains many allusions to Jesus' Easter walk with the Emmaus disciples from our Gospel reading. While it may be unfamiliar, take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with the melody.



1	Stay with us	till night has come:	Our praise to
2	Walk with us,	our spir - its sigh:	Hear when our
3	Walk with us;	the road will bend:	Make all our
4	Talk with us	till we be - hold	A joy - ful
5	Stay with us	till day is done:	No tears nor



you this day be sung.	Bless our bread;	O - pen our
wea - ry spir - its cry.	Feel a - gain	Our loss, our
weep - ing, wail - ing end.	Wipe our tears;	For - give our
life you will un - fold:	Heal our eyes	To see the
dark shall dim the sun.	Cheer the heart;	Your grace im -



eyes:	Je - sus, be our great	sur - prise.
pain:	Je - sus, take us to	your side.
fears:	Je - sus, lift the heav - y	cross.
prize:	Je - sus, take us to	the light.
part:	Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal	life.

SERMON - SCRIPTURE OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE THE RISEN LORD

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

God invites our prayers and desires that Christians pray for many people and circumstances (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Please stand.

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 intercessions 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.

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

*Jesus Refuge of the Weary | CW 108
Contemporary setting*

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

Abide, O Dearest Jesus | CW 333

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Reread the three lessons from Acts 2, 1 Peter 1, and Luke 24 this time looking for evidence of God's foreknowledge. How do you see God's plan in all three readings? How is that attribute of God especially comforting now?
2. In what ways does Jesus show himself to be the master teacher to the Emmaus disciples? Think about the "how" as well as the "what."
3. Read on in Luke 24, especially verses 36-49. Where else is this account recorded in Scripture? What does this tell us about the timeline of Easter events?
4. Look closely at the Emmaus disciples' conversation after Jesus vanished from their sight. What caused their hearts to burn within them? Why is this especially exciting for us as modern-day believers?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. PAUL'S SERVING AT THE FOOD PANTRY

April 27- May 1

Food pantries continue to provide an essential service to communities across the nation. Therefore, our volunteers will be serving at the South Wood Emerging Food Panty (SWEPS) this week. With every grocery order, our volunteers include a card on how to connect with our congregation.

ATTENTION KNITTERS/CROCHETERS!

Need a project to use up small scraps of yarn? Looking for a project to fill your time at home these days? Willing Workers are asking for your help in making mini prayer shawls (about 4 inches x 4 inches) for our church to give as gifts for outreach or our own ministry at St. Paul's. Please ask for the pattern via email (churchoffice@stpaulswr.org) or pick up a paper copy of the pattern at church during regular office hours.

RECEIVE FAMILY DEVOTIONS FROM WELS

WELS Commission on Discipleship is offering devotions developed for the entire family to use. The devotions coincide with the previous Sunday's Bible readings. Each devotion has a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. You can subscribe to have the devotions e-mailed to you at wels.net/subscribe, find them on the WELS Facebook page fb.com/welslutherans, or wels.net/family-devotions. Downloadable printable versions are available.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING AVAILABLE BY VIDEO

Christian Family Solutions provides counseling through a secure video connection. It is simple to connect through your iphone, laptop or other device. Appointments are available during the day or evening. Many insurance companies are waiving client co-pays during this health emergency. For more info, visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org or call 800-438-1772.

OFFERING REPORT

From July 1, 2019 to April 17, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$861,810

Actual cost of ministry: \$883,299

Mortgage balance: \$1,397,493



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

Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org