

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church | Wisconsin Rapids, WI

April 30, 2023

Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Sunday



Every culture has the concept of an ideal citizen, someone who typifies its values. For much of the United States' history, the ideal citizen was the American farmer: hardworking, innovative, vital to our collective well-being. Even some of our first presidents were farmers.

For the people of Israel, the shepherd was their ideal citizen. Sheep were an invaluable source of clothing and food. But sheep were hard to keep in the Judean countryside. Its sparse grasslands are intermixed with desert. For sheep, food is sparse, but predators are plenteous. The survival of sheep was dependent on their shepherd. There he is. Weatherbeaten. Sleepless. Armed. In the dusk, he scans the land, counting his sheep, making sure they are all accounted for, every one of them on his heart. You see why Jesus chose the shepherd to illustrate how he cares for us. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from that roaring lion, Satan. Jesus is leading us into the green pasture of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that he lives to be our Good Shepherd.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Organist Destinee Fiecko; Musicians Garth & Kristi Perry; Church Choir

Acknowledgements

Morning Prayer from *Christian Worship* © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Morning Prayer (Matins)

Matins is a worship setting that has been used in the Christian Church for centuries. It begins on page 207 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

471 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Stand



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



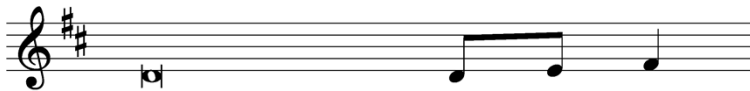
and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



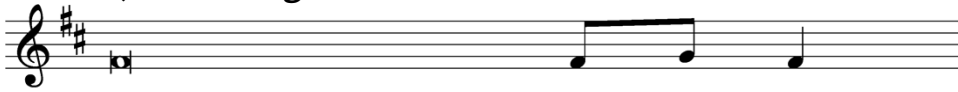
Easter Christ is risen from the dead:



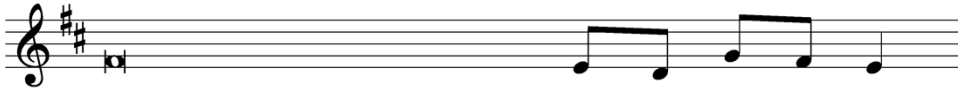
praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

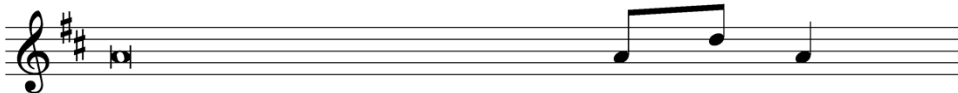
CW 208



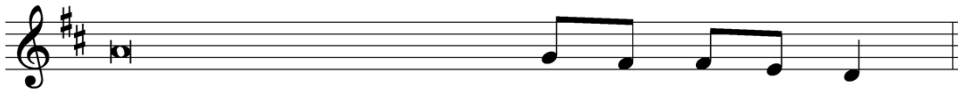
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

The flock of the Good Shepherd grew as the early Church devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to genuine love for one another.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

23B Shepherd Me, O God

Please join to sing the refrain. The choir will sing the verses.

Refrain

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **Refrain**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. **Refrain**

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **Refrain**

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. **Refrain**

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **Refrain**

Text: Marty Haugen. Text and tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

We are called to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means suffering for doing good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

John 10:1–10

Jesus is both our Good Shepherd and the Gate through which we enter into the green pastures of salvation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

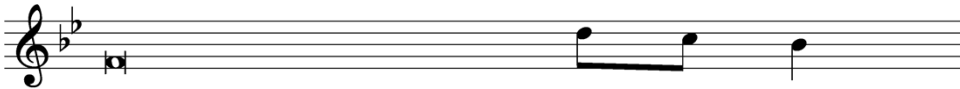
Sermon

Stand

We Praise You, O God

CW 210

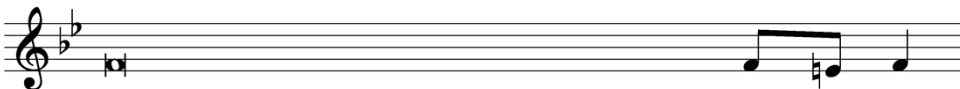
While the layout of the Te Deum may look intimidating, simply sing “verse by verse,” singing all of “verse one” line by line, then singing all of “verse two” line by line, and so on.



- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
- 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise___ you.



- 1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full___ of your glo - ry.
- 3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



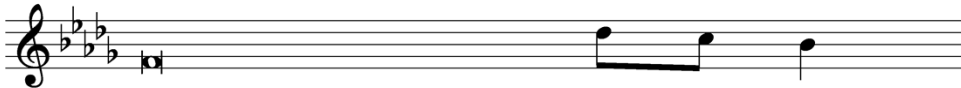
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
- 2 The glorious company of apostles praise___ you.
- 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



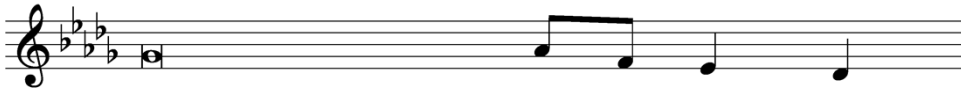
1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise you.
 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



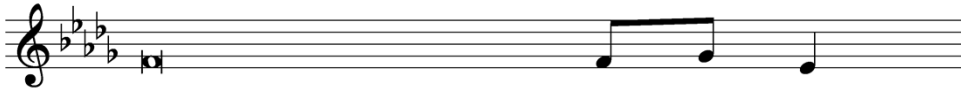
4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



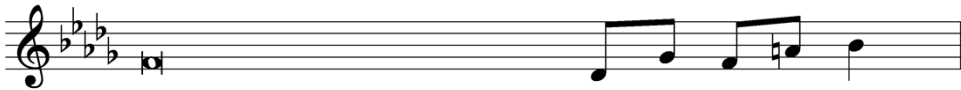
5 When you became man to set us free,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 You overcame the sting of death
 6 We believe that you will come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be our judge.



7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,



7 bought with the price of your own blood,



7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Be seated

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

Prayer of the Church

Today, the prayer will be offered by individual petitions. Each petition will end this way:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The final petition is the Prayer of the Day for Good Shepherd Sunday:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

- † Nora Deniston, the daughter of Matthew & Sarah, was baptized on Saturday.
- † Ridge Wolosek, the son of Lance & Faye, will be baptized between the services today.
- † God's guidance and blessing on the assignment process and our request for a new teacher.
- †
- †
- †
- †
- †
- †

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. 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

Sheep May Safely Graze

Hymn

793 *Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me*
Congregation joins after the first verse and refrain.

Stand

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

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.





Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

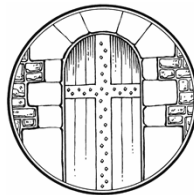


A - men.

Be seated

Hymn

804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



Take Home Questions

1. The verses from today's Gospel don't actually contain Jesus' "I am the Good Shepherd" statement. What is the "I am" statement in these verses? Explore the meaning behind the two statements. What nuances exist with each?
2. Reread the description of the early Christian church from Acts 2:42-47. Describe the things that happened in that congregation. In what ways do the same things happen in our congregation? In what ways can we better emulate our brothers and sisters in ancient Jerusalem?
3. 1 Peter 2:19-25 calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good. For what reasons do we patiently endure suffering according to these verses?
4. Our hymnody contains many wonderful hymns for Good Shepherd Sunday. Read through all the stanzas of the four hymns we sang today: 471, 552, 793, 804. (Feel free to take a hymnal home with you and bring it back next week.) Which hymn resonates with you the most? For what reasons?



News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Jonah ~ The Grumpiest Missionary An Overview of the Prophetic Office

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the Google Meet link, contact Pastor Proeber.

MLC Graduate Requested

Last Sunday, the voters' decided to go forward with requesting that a graduate from Martin Luther College be assigned to our congregation to serve as our 1st-2nd grade teacher. On May 11, the Assignment Committee will meet to assign teaching candidates. The number of requests for teachers exceeds the number of graduates available, so our request may go unfilled (although we pray that it doesn't). The assignments will be announced during the Call Service at Martin Luther College on Saturday, May 13 at 2:30 pm. We pray that God and the Assignment Committee would look favorable upon our request and that we would trust God for his timing and provision.

MLC Day

May 3

With the shortage of pastors and teachers in our synod, it is more important than ever to encourage our young people to consider the ministry and to support our ministerial training college, Martin Luther College (MLC). The college is asking you to set aside May 3 to pray for MLC, share encouragement on social media, and support MLC with a financial contribution. More information can be found at MLCDay.com.



National Day of Prayer

May 4

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation. We humbly ask God for his wisdom and guidance for our local, state, and federal leaders. It is also appropriate to pray for the military, the economy, and the cultural state of our nation. Our *Christian Worship Hymnal* has a brief prayer for the nation on page 255. There are also hymns for the nation, beginning on page 772 of the hymnal, which can be used as prayers. For more information on the National Day of Prayer and more ideas for prayers, visit NationalDayOfPrayer.org.

The Lord Is with Us!

May 3 | 6:30 PM

“Numbers” sounds like a boring list of statistics, but the book of the Bible by this name has much more to say. It tells us how the Lord was with the Israelites during their time in the wilderness and showed them his love despite their rebellion and grumbling. The book also contains foreshadows of the work of Christ. Want to learn more? Come to the Bible Book Group on Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Resource Center. The session begins a couple of psalms and then launches into the book of Numbers

Dementia Friendly



Save the Date: Dementia-Friendly Church Training August 9

On Wednesday, August 9, we will be conducting a training session for staff and volunteers on how to make our church a safe, respectful, and welcoming place for people with dementia and their caregivers. We will learn tips for interacting with a person who has dementia and creating a dementia-friendly physical space. Watch your bulletin for more details as the date approaches.

Bring in Your Coke Codes by the End of June

Coca-Cola Give is “under construction and being reimaged!” Please donate your Coca Cola product codes by June 30. After that, we are unsure whether the program will continue. Product codes can be found under bottle caps and inside fridge packs. The codes translate into cash for our school. Thank you for your donations!

Help with Before School Care

Before School Care provides an important service to parents who need to be at work early in the day. With Mrs. Proeber going on maternity leave, we are short-handed. Help is needed 7:00-8:30 am on school days. You can volunteer or be paid. An experienced childcare worker will work with you. Please contact Mrs. Carole Melso at cmelso@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119, if you are able to help.

Support the Tuition Assistance Fund

A Christian education is definitely worth the money, but for some families it is difficult to afford. You can help by making donations to St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund. Your gifts will provide tuition assistance to a qualifying family. Just make a note of your intentions on your offering envelope or in the “add special instructions” section of PayPal.

* Did Mom make sure you got to school each morning? *
Make a donation in her honor for Mother's Day.

Is There a Raincloud over Your Head?

Everyone else seems excited about the warmth and sunshine, but you feel cold and gloomy inside. Maybe one of our Stephen Ministers can help. They are trained to provide one-on-one Christian care to the hurting in our congregation and will walk with you through this stormy time. Your Stephen Minister will be there whether it is for a few sessions or long-term. One of the pastors can help determine if a Stephen Minister is right for you, please contact them.

Host an International Student

Northland Lutheran High School needs families willing to take a foreign student. This entails having the student with you full time throughout the school year. The host family receives a stipend for the room and board of the student. Please call Mr. Wiechmann (715-297-4427) if you have questions, or if you are willing to open your home to one of these great kids!

New Bleachers for NLHS

It is time to replace the bleachers at Northland Lutheran High School. They were already dated when they were taken from an old school and installed at NLHS 24 years ago. New bleachers will improve comfort and safety while seating 348 people. Can you donate the cost of one seat? It works out to \$150. If so, contact NLHS at nlhsoffice@nlhs.org or (715) 359-3400.

June Mission Event in La Crosse

One of the largest WELS gatherings is happening this summer in La Crosse. The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Convention (open to both men and women) will be held on June 22-25 and will feature missionaries from around the world. Learn more at 60.LWMS.org.

Worship Techs Needed

Help fill out our schedule of worship techs. The area most short-handed is advancing slides on the PowerPoint. Help is especially needed in the second service. Training will be provided. If you are able to serve, please stop in the balcony on Sunday, or contact either Larry Klish (715-570-2156) or Chris Williams (507-279-0167). This is a great way for teens to get volunteer service hours!

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
Thursday, May 18
at 6:00 PM



Guest Preacher Dan Naumann

- Sunday** 8:00 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th grade
 10:30 AM Worship
 2:00 PM Coed Volleyball in the gym
- Monday** 4:30 PM Choir Practice in the balcony
- 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
 6:30 PM Unified Board Meetings
- Wednesday** 8:55 AM School Chapel Service
 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
- Friday** 6:00 PM Spring Piano Recital in the church
- Sunday** 8:00 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th grade
 10:30 AM Worship
 2:00 PM Coed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 210

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 763,878

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 662,689

Upcoming Events

May 3 ~ MLC Day

May 4 ~ National Day of Prayer

May 13 ~ Call Service at MLC

May 14 ~ Mother's Day

May 18 ~ Ascension Day Service

May 21 ~ Confirmation Sunday

Christ also
suffered for
you, leaving
you an example

A graphic of black footprints arranged in a path that starts at the bottom left and moves upwards and to the right, ending near the top right of the text.



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