

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



My Father is glorified by this, that you
BEAR MUCH FRUIT
and become my disciples.

John 15:8, NRSV

THE RISEN SAVIOR PRODUCES FRUIT
IN HIS BRANCHES
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 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



Last week, we heard about our relationship as sheep to the Good Shepherd; this week, we consider what it means to be branches that are connected to Jesus, the Vine. What do branches do? They bear fruit, especially when they draw their nourishment and strength from their base. We have the most spiritually beneficial source to draw from in Christ; draw from his love for you so that you would bear fruit.

The liturgical color* for this Sunday is white, which signifies the perfection of the source from which we draw all our love, strength, and joy—Jesus.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the questions on page 12.

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

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.



WE HAVE A YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

Now we can make more video content available to our church family and the community. In addition to our worship services, the pastors plan to post a weekly discussion of "Take Home Questions" from the service folder. If you watch worship online, the worship page on our website, will look a little different. Just follow the link to our YouTube channel. This change will hopefully resolve some of our recent issues with livestreaming. So locate our YouTube channel, then subscribe and tap the bell icon to get notifications when we're going live or post a new video.

JOIN THE WOMEN'S STUDY

May 4 | 9:45 AM

Women Walking in the Word is beginning a new Bible study on the book of Psalms this Tuesday at 9:45 AM in the Resource Center. This would be a great time to join the group. Each session will cover several psalms. Since each psalm has a different theme, if you miss a session, you won't be lost when you come back!

UNDECORATING CHURCH

May 9 | 11:30AM

Next Sunday, we will be taking down the Easter decorations. Volunteers are needed after the second service (around 11:30AM). Please plan to stay or come back to help.

SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED

The school is in need of gloves and softball bats for physical education class. Your donations are appreciated. You can drop them off in the office.

CONSIDERING A CAREER IN FULL-TIME PUBLIC MINISTRY?

The St. Paul's Pastor Teacher Scholarship Fund provides scholarship funds for students attending Northland Lutheran High School or Luther Preparatory School (juniors and seniors only) and Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (all students). Please contact the church office for an application. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2021.

THE COMMON SERVICE

The common service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate | CWS 750
Verse 1-All: 2-Pastors: 3-All: 4-Women: 5-Men: 6-All



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate,
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en,
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful Shep - herd,
5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing
6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga;



Lord and Son of A - bra - ham;
Food for bod - y, food for soul;
From the stump of Jes - se's tree;
Watch - ing all your lambs and sheep;
To the Fath - er's home on high;
Christ, the first - born from the dead;



Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
Christ, the man - na, dai - ly giv - en,
Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es
Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,
Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive;
Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion;



Per - fect God, the great I Am;
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole.
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly.
Nev - er - fail - ing vi - gil keep.
Christ, the life that can - not die.
Christ, the Church's glo - rious head:



Christ, the Light, you shine un - van - quished,
 Feed us with the food of heav - en,
 Graft us in - to you, O Sav - ior;
 When we stray, Good Shep - herd, seek us,
 Me - di - a - tor to the Fath - er,
 Praise and thanks and a - do - ra - tion



Light and life you bring to all;
 Fore - taste of the feast to be;
 Prune our hearts so we re - main
 Find us, lift us, bear us home;
 Sac - ri - fice and Great High Priest:
 And un - end - ing wor - ship be



Light our path with your own pres - ence,
 Quench our thirst with liv - ing wa - ter
 Fruit - ful branch - es in your vine - yard
 Lamb of God, our Shep - herd, keep us;
 Lead us to your heav'n - ly man - sions,
 To the Fath - er and the Spir - it



Grant us grace to heed your call.
 Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
 Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
 Let us hear your voice a - lone.
 There to share your wed - ding feast.
 And to you e - ter - nal - ly.

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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

Congregation (C): Amen.

This hymn speaks about many of Christ's titles in Scripture. We get to hear a couple of them throughout the Sundays of the Easter season, such as in verse three, which highlights today's theme.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- 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

CW p.16

- M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C: **♪ Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
Are most high in the glory of God the Father.
Amen. ♪**

C: ♪ Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ever sing your praise. ♪

M: 'Neath the shadow of your shelt'ring wings I sing my joy and praise.
My strong support is your right hand Through troubled nights and days.
All those who seek my life will fall; My life is in your hand.
God's king and people will rejoice; In vict'ry they will stand.

C: ♪ Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ever sing your praise. ♪

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:18-24

How do we produce fruit? Keep God's commands!

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: I am the vine; you are the branches.

C: **If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Alleluia!** (John 15:5a EHV)

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

God is glorified when we stay connected to him.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

*From Eternity, O God | CW 461
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-Women; 4-All; 5-Men; 6-All*

SERMON

Remain in Christ

Please stand.

RESPONSE

| CW p.20

**♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen. ♪**

After we have heard God's Word and the application of it to our lives through the sermon, we pray these words from Psalm 51, asking that God would use his gospel message to give us new hearts.

Be seated.

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

Video of Junior Handbell Choir

8:00 - NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Debbie Armstrong & Elaine Clapero

Please remain seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces he gives to us as a vine gives life to its branches.

C: We thank you for his perfect life and obedient death. Through them, we receive cleansing and pardon for all our sins.

M: We thank you for his resurrection, through which we have the promise of eternal life; and for his ascension to your right hand, by which we have the assurance that he is always interceding for us. Help us to believe and trust in him, to love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions, we may produce fruit that is pleasing to you. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence.

C: Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.

M: Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or hardship would rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick. Dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful.

C: Lead us all to look to you as the unfailing source of healing and hope.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M: All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: 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 of Holy Communion

PREFACE

| CW p. 21

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them up unto 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, *and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: **♪ Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:**

| CW p. 22

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. ♪

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.23

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

Take and Eat | CW 741

Please sing the verses as you feel comfortable.

Refrain: Take and eat, take and eat, this is my body given up for you.

Take and drink, take and drink, this is my blood given up for you.

I am the Word that spoke and light was made;

I am the seed that died to be reborn;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy. *Refrain*

I am the way that leads the exile home;

I am the truth that sets the captive free;

I am the life that raises up the dead;

I am your peace, true peace my gift to you. *Refrain*

I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;

I am the gate that guards you night and day.

You are my flock: you know the Shepherd's voice;

You are my own: your ransom is my blood. *Refrain*

I am the cornerstone that God has laid,

A chosen stone and precious in his eyes.

You are God's dwelling place; on me you rest

Like living stones, a temple for God's praise. *Refrain*

I am the Light that came into the world;
I am the Light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets.
Lift up your face; in you my light will shine. *Refrain*

I am the First and Last, the living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the Bridegroom, this my wedding song.
You are my bride; come to the marriage feast. *Refrain*

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

| CW p.24

C: ♪ Lord, now you let your servant
depart in peace according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before
the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel. ♪

Many Christians use these words as part of their mealtime prayers; how fitting to use them to thank the Lord for the gifts he has given at his Holy Supper!

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: ♪ And his mercy endures forever.

M: Let us pray together.

C: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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. Amen. Amen.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie that Binds | CW 494
Verse 1-All; 2-Pastors; 3-Women; 4-Men; 5-All



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Reread Acts 4 and make a list of all the different ways the early Christian church bore fruit as branches connected to the vine. In what ways can we imitate their actions today?
2. In John 15 Jesus identifies himself as the vine and us the branches. How are you as a branch connected to the vine? How can that connection be strengthened?
3. Based on John 15, how does God produce more fruit in us? Reflect on your life as a Christian. What are some ways God may be pruning you so you can bear more fruit? What are some possible examples of more fruit you can bear?
4. Hearing verses like John 15:7 and 1 John 3:22 may lead our sinful hearts to greed and selfishness. However, what is the prayer of a branch that's bearing fruit? (Hint: read Matthew 26:39b) How does this connect with us bearing fruit?

CALENDAR

May 2-9

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	Unified Board Meetings
WEDNESDAY	8:55 AM	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
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
	11:30 AM	Taking Down Easter Decorations



ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 203
From July 1, 2020 to April 27, 2021
Actual ministry income: \$ 871,676
Actual cost of ministry: \$ 966,696
Mortgage balance: \$1,269,547

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3-4 Pastors at conference
May 9 Mother's Day
May 16 Confirmation Sunday
May 18 Voters' Meeting
May 28 Last Day of School



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