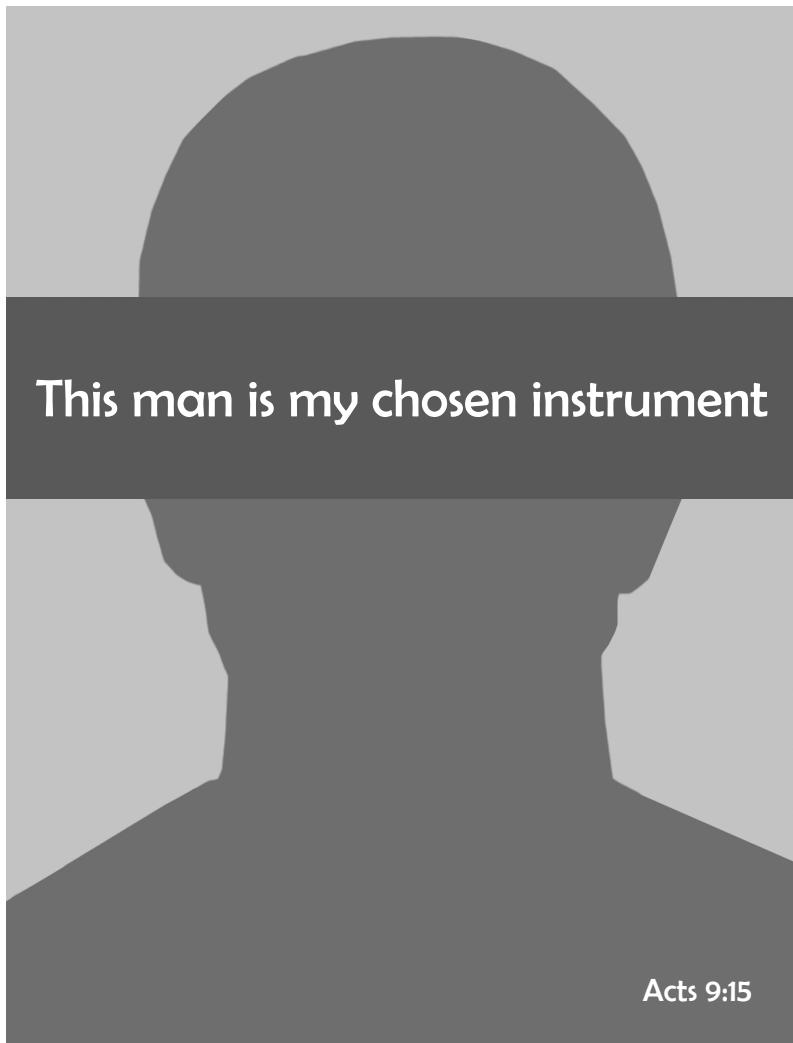


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



THE RISEN CHRIST GIVES ASSURANCE
THROUGH APPEARANCE
Third Sunday of Easter

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

May 5, 2019

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

Christ is risen! He has assured us of this fact by showing us the empty tomb and his risen body. Today, the risen Christ continues to assure us that he is risen and that he will care for all our needs in this life and in eternity. He also assures us of our callings today, telling us that he has indeed chosen us for his service.

The liturgical color* for the Easter season is white, which points our eyes heavenward to the perfection and glory we see in today's second reading from Revelation 5.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

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

THE COMMON SERVICE

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

WELCOME

No matter what time it is, we can always join to sing of the mercies of God, which are new every day.

OPENING SONG

Every Morning Mercies New | CW 580

Please stand.

INVOCATION

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

Congregation (C): Amen.

CONFSSION 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

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. CW p.16
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'ly 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. A-men. ♫

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 joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 9:1-22

The risen Christ assures Saul that he is indeed the Son of God.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 30 | CW p.76

*Refrain: ♫ At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.*

♪ Sing to the LORD, you 'saints of his;*
Praise his 'holy name.
For his anger lasts only a 'moment,*
But his favor lasts a 'lifetime;
Weeping may remain 'for a night,*
But rejoicing comes in the 'morning.

Refrain

♪ To you, O 'LORD, I called;*
To the Lord I cried for 'mercy.
Hear, O LORD, and be merci'ful to me;*
O LORD, 'be my help.
You turned my wailing into 'dancing,*
That my heart may sing to you and not be 'silent.

♪ 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

Revelation 5:11-14

The risen Christ assures us that we will join in this heavenly song.

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 with us on the road

C: and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (*Luke 24:32 NIV84®*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 21:1-14

The risen Christ assures his disciples of his providence.

After the Gospel, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teaching that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided trinity.

Nicene Creed

CONFSSION OF FAITH

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

The children are invited to come forward for an object lesson.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Like the Golden Sun Ascending | CW 147

SERMON - YOU ARE A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT!

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. ♪

Based on the words of Psalm 51:10-12,
with this song we pray that God
would cause his Word to take deep
root in our hearts and that his Spirit
would use his powerful Word to
transform our hearts.

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. We ask that everyone, guests and members, sign the Friendship Register, which will be passed out during the offering.

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

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 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.

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

ICW 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.

P: 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:
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. ♪**

| CW p. 22

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. ♪**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus offered himself as the sacrifice for sin once for all (Hebrews 7:27).

Please be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION

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

The communicant members of our congregation will be invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are present in the sacrament, and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor prior to communing. We don't want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we've had an opportunity to explain and prove them from Scripture. The pastor would be happy to explore our convictions with you, on the basis of God's Word, so that you might commune with us in the future!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face | CW 315
Around the Throne of God a Band | CW 198*

Please stand.

THANKSGIVING

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. ♪

| CW p.24

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

C: ♫ And his mercy endures forever.

M: Let us pray together.

C: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love
for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus 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 upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: ♫ Amen. Amen. Amen. ♪

HYMN

Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You | CW 380

WORTHY IS THE
LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Read the Gospel from John 21 again. As you read, first, pay attention to details that only an eyewitness could know. Second, look for things that only the Spirit could disclose to a writer. Why is it always important to keep both of these aspects in mind?
 2. In Revelation 5, the two hymns of praise that are said to the Lamb are interesting to examine. Look at the number of things that are ascribed to the Lamb in each hymn (wisdom, praise, honor, etc.). How many things ascribed in each hymn? Consult a People's Bible or a study Bible to see what those numbers mean in Revelation. With that information, what are the angels and creatures really saying?
 3. In Acts 9:13-14 and 9:21, people voice their concern about getting too close to Saul; they were afraid this was a hoax! In what ways do you fall into similar thinking about other people (But, Lord, that person is a _____ !)? When we say things like that, what are we really saying to God? What verses come to mind to push back those thoughts?
 4. In Acts 9:15, God names Saul as his chosen instrument. In our minds, that might drum up ideas of success and power. But what is surprising about verse 16? What does that teach us about being God's chosen instruments?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY

We Have Victory in Christ (1 John 5)

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

THE BLESSING TREE

Today, you will receive another "Blessing Leaf." Write down a blessing you have received from the Lord and post it on the Blessing Tree in the Welcome Center.



OUTDOOR CLEAN UP DAY

May 11 | 9:00 a.m.

We will be doing some pruning, tree trimming, lawn care and general cleanup of our grounds on Saturday, May 11. If you have a rake or other tools, please bring them along. Any questions? Contact Brian Johnson at 715-572-6777.

PREPARED TO ANSWER

We are placing a bulk order of the books *Prepared to Answer* and *More Prepared to Answer*. They will equip you with God's Word for times when you encounter objections to and questions about your faith. Prepare yourself to respond correctly and with kindness and respect. The more copies we order, the better price we will receive. If you would like a copy of either or both of these books, please sign up at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. A sample copy of *Prepared to Answer* is also available.

BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

May 12-17

We are holding another Scholastic Book Fair in May, so families can stock up on books for summer reading. All books will be buy one, get one free. To make this a successful event, we need volunteers on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Monday-Friday at 3:30-4:30 p.m. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Karen Obsuszt, 715-451-5970 or karen.obsuszt@gmail.com.

PASTOR AT CONFERENCE

May 5-6

Pastor Proeber will be at pastoral conference in Marathon on Monday & Tuesday of this week. You can reach him via his cell phone, if there is an emergency.



TAKE DOWN EASTER DECORATIONS

May 11 | 10:00 a.m.

The Decorating Committee will be taking down and storing the decorations from Easter. Your help would be appreciated.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

May 13-17

We have been blessed with wonderful teachers, pastor, daycare workers, and staff to lead our children. We would love to be able to give each of them a gift certificate to express our gratitude for all they do each day by sharing the love of our Lord. If you would like to contribute money towards a gift certificate, please send the money in a sealed envelope marked Staff Appreciation by Tuesday, May 7.

GIVE A TEACHER A BREAK!

May 13-17

Take over one of their non-teaching duties for the day: Bus duty (supervise children until buses and riders are gone), Car duty (supervise children until all students are picked up), or Lunch & Recess duty. If you have younger children bring them with you to help! If you can help or have any questions, please call or text Wendy Blum at 715-421-9157.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

May 8 | 12:00 p.m.

The OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) of Divine Word Lutheran Church invite you to a potluck lunch and a presentation by retired SPASH coach Donn Behnke. Donn has written a book about running, competing, team building, and a very special athlete named Scott "The Animal" Longley.

LOCAL WALK FOR LIFE

May 11

The local pregnancy resource center, First Choice, is holding their Walk for Life, a 6K run/walk at Lake Wazeecha, on Saturday, May 11 (the day before Mother's Day). The entry donation is \$50, and activities include a raffle, games, pig roast, concessions, and music. For more information visit www.firstchoiceprc.org/walkforlife.

COMING SOON...BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

From Mother's Day through Father's Day, we are holding a "baby bottle fundraiser" for First Choice Pregnancy Resource Centers in Wisconsin Rapids & Stevens Point. Next Sunday, you will be given a baby bottle to fill with donations. Look for more details in the monthly newsletter.



SEE WHAT'S "BLOOMING" AT THE RESALE STORE

Spring has arrived at the Dime and Dollar in Stevens Point. There are racks full of brightly colored spring and summer clothing including swimsuits and shorts, with sizes ranging from infant to size 4X for adults. They also offer a multitude of items from books to kitchen items. Liven up your décor with a new throw pillow or listen to a CD of Christian music while driving to work. The store is full to the brim with just what you need. Did you know the store is run entirely by volunteers and that **all proceeds go to Northland Lutheran High School?** Take a drive over anytime Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and check out what sort of hidden treasure you can find.

SCHEDULE YOUR PHOTO SESSION

If you haven't scheduled your photography session for the church directory yet, you can do so by calling the church office or visiting our website (www.stpaulswr.org) and tapping on the Schedule Your Photo Session link.

CONNECTING WELS MEMBERS

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways to connect members through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welstweets, Instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last week's attendance: 262

Year-to-date average attendance: 246

From July 1, 2018 to April 26, 2019

Actual gifts to ministry: \$ 828,319

Actual cost of ministry: \$ 852,775

Mortgage Balance \$ 1,522,990



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15 Confirmation Essays Read

May 18 MLC Call Service

May 19 Confirmation Sunday

June 5-15 Church Directory Photos

CALENDAR

May 5-12

SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Lutheran Pioneers at the Model A Club
MONDAY	8:15 AM	Board of Elders in the Resource Center
	4:00 PM	Children's Outreach Task Force in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Board of Properties in the Resource Center
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
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	School Chapel Service
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice in the balcony
	7:00 PM	Contemporary Choir in the balcony
THURSDAY	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	2:00 PM	Hafermann Singers at the Atrium Care Center
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
SATURDAY	9:00 AM	Outdoor Cleanup Day
	10:00 AM	Taking Down Easter Decorations
SUNDAY	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School (grades K-5)
	10:30 AM	Worship





www.stpaulswr.org

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