

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



HE LIVES TO BE THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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 Service



The gospel is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are meant for every man, woman, and child who ever lived. The gospel is also the most exclusive message in the world, for it maintains that salvation can only be found in one place—the person of Jesus Christ. Just listen to how Jesus speaks: “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus doesn't say, “I will show you the true way to eternal life.” The prophets and apostles could say that. But Jesus says, “I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life you crave.” And note that definite article: “the,” not “a”! Jesus is not a way into heaven. He is the way. There is no other way than through faith in the One who died and rose again.

The unbelieving world finds this claim—that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven—to be the most offensive teaching in all of Scripture. Yet this is the very truth upon which Christ builds his Church.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 10 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Plagenz; Accompanist Marilyn Foley; Violinist Josie Avery

Acknowledgements

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The Service: Setting Two

Setting Two begins on page 172 of the hymnal

Welcome

Hymn

8:00 - 469 *Welcome, Happy Morning*
10:30 – 647 *Word and Water, Filled with Promise*

10:30 – Holy Baptism of Everly Alda Proeber

Following the rite, the service continues with the Word on pg. 5 of the service folder.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

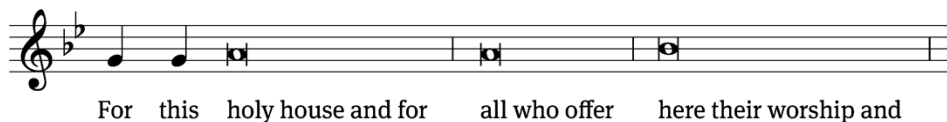
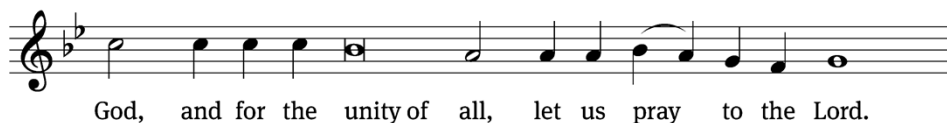
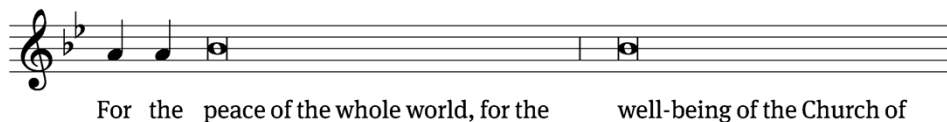
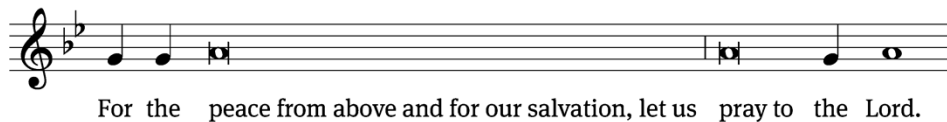
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy




Glory to God in the Highest


CW 176

As a way to reintroduce this setting, please sing the refrain. The pastor/song leader will sing the verses.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. **Refrain**

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 4:8–12

The man who had been crucified by the Jewish leaders had been raised from the dead. That means he is the only one in whom salvation is found.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

118A This is the Day the LORD Has Made

Refrain



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

Tone



The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
he has become my sal- / vation.
The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
I will not / die but live,
and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. *Refrain*

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
you have become my sal- / vation.
The stone the builders re- / jected
has become the / cornerstone;
the LORD has / done this,
and it is marvelous / in our eyes.

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*

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Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4–10

Jesus is the cornerstone on which the Church is built and the stone over which unbelievers stumble. In other words, Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Pastor sings:

I am the way and the truth / and the life.

No one comes to the Father ex- / cept through me.

Refrain

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Gospel

John 14:1–11

Jesus is the only way to draw near to the Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

809 Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled
Please sing the refrain as you feel comfortable.
The pastor/song leaders will sing the verses.

Sermon

Stand

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 truly 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

Connect Card

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

Prayer of the Church

Merciful God, in this glorious season we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion for others in need of mercy.

Lord of lords, destroy all power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end.

Never leave us or forsake us.

Heavenly Father, keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with all we need for life and godliness.

Special prayers and intercessions

Special Prayers This Week

- † Ben Wittrock and Chantal Eyong will be married in Los Angeles on May 13. Safe travel for all the family attending.
- † Baptisms earlier this week of Kaiden & Kyler Fairbanks and Cassandra Thorson.
- † Baptism today of Everly Alda Proeber, daughter of Rev. Lucas & Amy Proeber
- † For Mary Gear, who is 93 and was recently hospitalized with RSV.
- † God's guidance and blessing on the assignment process and our request for a new teacher.
- † For safety as John Batzer travels out of state to visit his grandson.
- †
- †
- †

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

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.

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.

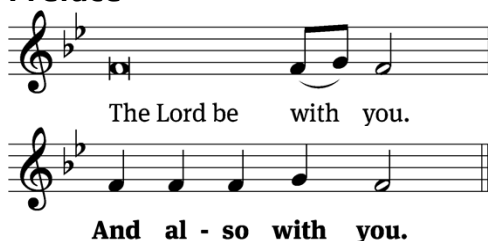


Musical Offering

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface



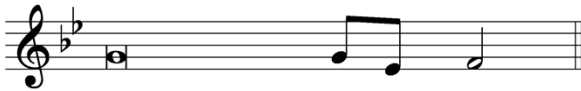
The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

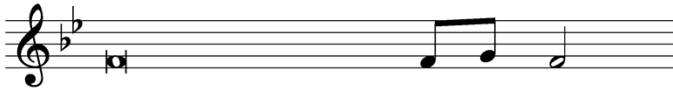
CW 183



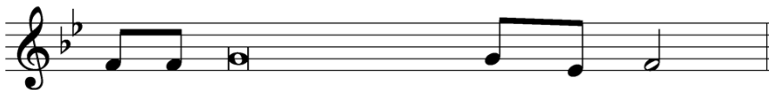
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

521 Christ the Eternal Lord

Distribution Hymn

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

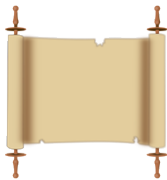
514 You Are the Way; through You Alone



Take Home Questions

1. Throughout all three readings, in what ways do you see the exclusivity of Jesus? In what ways do you see the inclusivity of Jesus?
2. In John 14 the disciples were asking Jesus to see God. Yet, they were speaking to God hidden in the flesh. God still hides himself in humility and suffering. In what ways can we see that today?
3. In Acts 4 Peter is standing in front of some of the same people Jesus stood in front of before he was condemned to die. What emotions might have been running through Peter's and John's mind? For what reasons was their fear overcome so they could boldly proclaim Jesus' name?
4. A cornerstone, as talked about in 1 Peter 2, would set the line and direction of a building. In what ways does Jesus, our cornerstone, set the line and direction of our lives?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Jonah ~ The Grumpiest Missionary God's Prophetic Message to the People

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

Decision on Call This Week

This Thursday, May 11, the WELS Assignment Committee will meet to assign teaching candidates graduating from Martin Luther College (MLC). Our congregation has requested a 1st-2nd grade teacher. However, the number of requests is high, and we are not guaranteed a graduate. We should have news on Friday. If we are assigned a graduate, we will find out who that person is during the Call Service at MLC on Saturday, May 13 at 2:30 pm. If you want to watch the service, it will be livestreamed. Look for a link at MLC-WELS.edu/streams. We pray for God guidance for the Assignment Committee and that God would bless us with a new teacher.

Help Take Down Easter Decorations Today

May 7 | 11:30 PM

Our Easter decorations will be coming down today. Your help with this task is appreciated. The work begins immediately following the second service.

Christian Cards Available for Spring Events

St. Paul's Bookstore sells greeting cards for Mother's Day, confirmation, and graduation as well as get well, birthday, sympathy, new baby and other cards. Single cards cost just 50 cents. Boxed set are also available. The card display is located along the west wall of the Welcome Center. (Additional boxed sets can be found in the Resource Center.) Just drop your payment in the black cash box on display table.

Willing Workers Making Plans

May 11 | 6:30 pm

Willing Workers will meet Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 pm. It is important that all members of Willing Workers attend as projects and plans for next year will be discussed. Your input is valuable and necessary. If you haven't been involved previously, we welcome you and your ideas. See you there!



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!



What Are Your Plans after Graduation?

As graduation approaches, we would appreciate you reaching out to us with information on your future plans. Are you going into the military, starting a job, or furthering their education? Will you be living at home for a time or moving out of town? This information will help us continue to minister you during this time of transition. You can call or email the church office, or contact Stephanie Derringer at 715-459-1926, with your information.

Bring in Your Coke Codes by the End of June

The product codes, found under Coca-Cola bottle caps and on fridge packs, are going away, but there's still time to donate your codes to our school. Codes must be submitted by June 30. 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!

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.

**“There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given to people
by which we must be saved.”**

- Act 4:12

Ascension Day is Coming

May 18 | 6:00 pm

On Thursday, May 18 at 6:00 pm, we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. Why celebrate this on a Thursday? Because that is when the Bible says Jesus ascended—forty days after the resurrection (Acts 1:3). In order to highlight the special nature of this service, we will have a guest preacher share God’s Word with us: Pastor Dan Naumann, who serves at Trinity in Marshfield. We are also planning to have a joint choir sing at the service.

Job Opportunities with the Synod

The synod is hiring for a couple of positions at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, WI. The first position is a Database Specialist for the Ministry of Christian Giving. The second is a Payroll & Accounting Specialist for the Financial Services team. To learn more about these job opportunities, visit WELS.net and look for the Careers link at the bottom of the page.

CLR Golf Outing in Sussex

May 19 | 9:30 AM

A fundraiser golf outing for Christian Life Resources (CLR) is planned for Friday, May 19 in Sussex, WI. CLR educates others on what God’s Word says about a wide range of life- and family-related topics, providing related materials and services. Your fee includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, free range balls, lunch, and buffet-style dinner and will benefit the organization. Learn more at christianliferesources.com/golf-outing/

Summer Events

Taste of Missions – June 10 in Mequon, WI (or watch online). Learn more at TasteOfMissions.com

Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society Convention – June 22-25 in La Crosse, WI. Learn more at 60.LWMS.org

WELS Night at the Brewers – July 7 in Milwaukee, WI. The ticket deadline is June 9. Learn more at Brewers.com/WELS



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 Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
- 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
 6:30 pm Willing Workers in the cafeteria
- 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: 234

Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 781,643

Actual offerings YTD: \$ 678,438

Upcoming Events

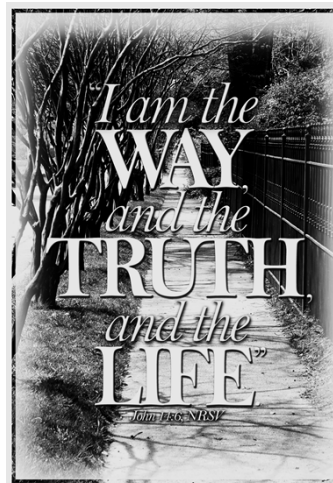
May 13 ~ Call Service at MLC

May 14 ~ Mother's Day

May 17 ~ Confirmation Banquet

May 18 ~ Ascension Day Service

May 21 ~ Confirmation Sunday





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