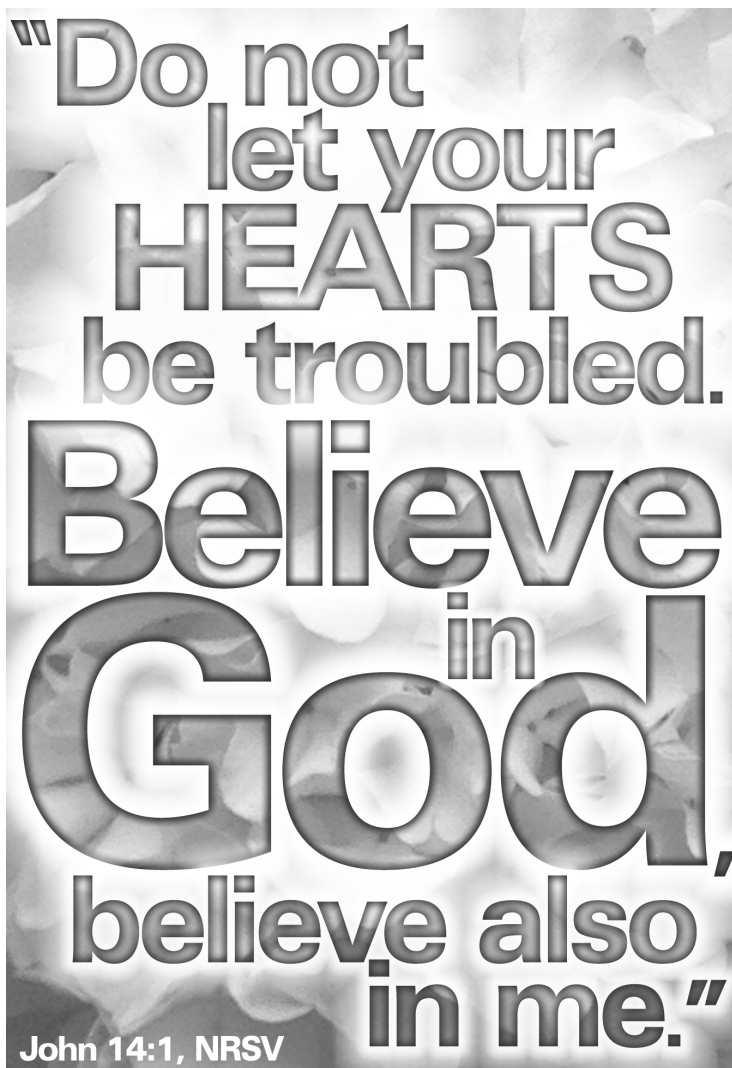


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR PLANS FALL
THROUGH?

- WHEN OUR HEARTS ARE TROUBLED -

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

May 10, 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

I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a person. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds his Church.

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, which points us to the perfect home we have in heaven through Jesus, the way to eternal life.

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Service of the Word. Words and Music: *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*. © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903

759 "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled." Text, Tune & Setting: David Haas. © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-719903.

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

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

Welcome, Happy Morning | CWS 163

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 cannot approach God without having our sins forgiven. He is holy, and we are not. Confession assures us of a clean slate before God and prepares us for worship.

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.

**C: ♪ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.**

**Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him. ♪**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Be seated

The Word

The Bible makes clear that "faith comes from hearing the message...of Christ" (Romans 10:17). This is why we place such an emphasis on God's Word throughout our worship services and our lives.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-12

Troubled hearts find salvation in Jesus.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 33 | CW p. 79

*Refrain: ♪ The earth is full of the goodness of God,
The goodness of our God.*

*♪ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you 'righteous;**
It is fitting for the upright to 'praise him.
*For the Word of the LORD is 'right and true;**
He is faithful in 'all he does.

By the word of the LORD were the 'heavens made,*
Their starry host by the breath 'of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it 'came to be;*
He commanded, and 'it stood firm.

Refrain

♪ The LORD foils the plans of the 'nations;*
He thwarts the purposes of the 'peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm for 'ever,*
The purposes of his heart through all gener'ations.
The LORD loves righteousness and 'justice;*
The earth is full of his un'failing love.

♪ 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

1 Peter 2:4-10

Our hearts need not be troubled because we are the people of 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: I am the way, the truth,

C: **and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.** (*John 14:6*)

Please stand.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-11

Troubled hearts look to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Jesus encourages us to preach the gospel to people of all ages: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

You Are the Way; through You Alone | CW 356

SERMON - JESUS PREPARES US FOR WHEN WE LEAVE HERE

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in Your Son.

C: By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

M: Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people.

C: Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.

M: Preserve us from all assaults on our souls and deliver us from doubt and despair.

C: Preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.

M: Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and faithless.

C: Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and the distressed.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: As we conclude our worship today, grant peace and rest to us all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray.

C: 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

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled | CWS 759

This more recent hymn echoes Jesus' words to his disciples in our Gospel reading today. He speaks this same comforting message to you, too!

Refrain

Do not let your hearts be trou - bled; have
 faith in God and faith in me. I will go
 forth to pre - pare a place for you; then I'll come
 back to take you with me, that where I
 am, you may al - so be.

1-3 *To verses*

Last time *Verses*

be. 1 In God's
 2 I am the
 3 The words I

house there are man - y plac - es For you a -
 Way, the Truth, and the Life; On - ly through
 speak are not on - ly of my - self; It is your

lone to dwell in safe - ty. You know the
me can you know what I know. If you knew
God who lives with - in me. If you be -

way to where I'll lead you; If you are
me, you would know the Fa - ther; If you see
lieve that your God and I are one, I will pro -

To Refrain

lost, I will show the way.
me, you see your God.
vide when you call my name.

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

Christ Be My Leader | CW 367

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. The Bible frequently points to Jesus as the only way to heaven. Where do you see that theme in each of the readings for today, from Acts 4, 1 Peter 2, and John 14?
2. Both Acts 4 and 1 Peter 2 quote Psalm 118:22. Read through all of Psalm 118. In what other ways does that Psalm connect to the other readings from today?
3. The Gospel reading from John 14 comes from a conversation Jesus had with his disciples in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday. What additional insight into Jesus' words does this give us?
4. In the Gospel reading Jesus was calming the disciples' troubled hearts. Make a list of all the sources of comfort Jesus reminded them of. Now, from that list copy all the sources of comfort that still apply to you into a new list. How do these things calm our hearts when we are troubled?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP SPRUCE UP DIME & DOLLAR

The Dime and Dollar Thrift Store in Plover is taking time during this shut-down to clean, organize, and prepare for their eventual reopening. They need volunteers to help with physical tasks such as moving shelves/furniture, constructing shelves, and reaching high areas to change light bulbs and hang signs & pictures. Since the store is currently closed, they are very flexible on the day and time. They also need donations of materials (or money to purchase materials) to construct shelves. For more information, please contact Jan Peronto at 715-340-2809 or jkp111310@gmail.com. Profits from the thrift store help fund Northland Lutheran High School.

GOD STILL PROVIDES WORKERS

Even though graduations and assignments will take place in an entirely different format this year, the reason to celebrate remain the same. God continues to provide workers for his harvest field. At Martin Luther College (MLC), 171 teacher and staff ministry candidates are available for assignment. At Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), 26 pastoral candidates and 28 vicar candidates will be assigned.

You can participate in these online graduation events by visiting the school websites. MLC will hold graduation next Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 AM with announcement of assignments immediately following. WLS will have graduation and assignments on Thursday, May 21, at 10:00 AM.

THANK YOU, THRIVENT

We received gifts totaling \$797 from Thrivent Financial through two of their giving programs. The first was a special matching challenge in response to COVID-19. The second is the ongoing Thrivent Choice program. To learn more about Thrivent's giving opportunities, visit livegenerously.com.

OFFERING REPORT

From July 1, 2019 to May 1, 2020

Actual ministry income: \$897,280

Actual cost of ministry: \$926,132

Mortgage balance: \$1,397,493



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