

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



BECAUSE HE LIVES
WE KNOW JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE
Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025



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 world is full of talkers. There are plenty of people who say they care about you. But we are aware of what many of those people will do when it comes time to put those words into action. Jesus tells you in his Word that he cares for you dearly. . . that he would do anything for you. . . that he's leading you into the green pastures of paradise. How do you know you can trust him? Simple. Jesus followed up his words with action. Jesus promised he would die to save you from your sin. He did. Scripture promised the Savior would rise from the dead, proving that payment for sins was complete. It happened.

Jesus always does what he says. His every promise is fulfilled. Jesus once illustrated that point in a striking metaphor, that of the Good Shepherd. All shepherds use words, calling to the sheep hoping they will follow. What sets the Good Shepherd apart is the fact that his words are followed by action, including his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep. Because he lives, we know Jesus is trustworthy and true.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist Sue Kulhanek



Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text 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.

The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

551 *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 189

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men. A - men.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman © 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Hymn

938 *This Is the Feast*

Refrain



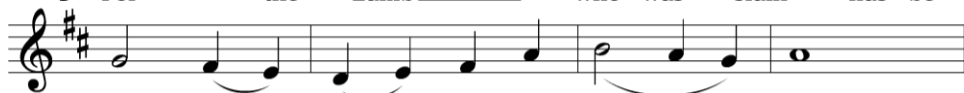
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: v. 4
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–1980; © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903
Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O 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.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 13:15,16a,26–39

St. Paul points out that Jesus' death and resurrection both fulfilled the Scripture. They prove not only that we are forgiven, but that God's promises are trustworthy and true.

¹⁵After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Gentlemen, brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, say it."

¹⁶Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

²⁶"Gentlemen, brothers, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you. ²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the statements of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸Though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹When they carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These same individuals are now his witnesses to the people.

³²"We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. ³³God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.'

³⁴"That God would raise him from the dead never again to be subject to decay, God said in this way: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

³⁵"Therefore he also says in another place: 'You will not let your Holy One see decay.'

³⁶"For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, fell asleep, was laid to rest with his fathers, and saw decay. ³⁷But the One God raised did not see decay.

³⁸"So, gentlemen, brothers, let it be known to you that through this Jesus forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, also forgiveness from everything from which you could not be justified through the law of Moses. ³⁹In this Jesus, everyone who believes is justified." (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

23F My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je -
2 When I walk through the shades of death, his
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at -



ho - vah is his name; in pas - tures fresh he
pres - ence is my stay; one word of his sup -
tend me all my days; oh, may his house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
my a - bode and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - d'ring spir - it back when
His hand, in sight of all my foes, will
There would I find a set - tled rest while



I for - sake his ways and leads me, for his
still my ta - ble spread; my cup with bless - ings
oth - ers go and come, no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
o - ver - flows; his oil a - noints my head.
or a guest but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker
Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

God's promise to lead all believers from great tribulation to the green pastures of heaven is trustworthy and true. St. John sees that promise fulfilled through the work of the Lamb.

⁹After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They called out with a loud voice and said: "Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb."

¹¹All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²saying: "Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen."

¹³One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?"

¹⁴And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

And he said to me: "These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. ¹⁶They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

I am the good shepherd;

I know my sheep and my sheep know me. **Refrain**

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

Gospel

John 10:22–30

Because our Good Shepherd is trustworthy and true, we eagerly listen to his voice.

²²Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.

²⁴So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus answered them, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. ²⁶But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one." (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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

Special Prayers This Week

- † God guide the assignment process at Martin Luther College and bless us with a graduate
- † For the blessings of mothers
- †
- †
- †
- †

Prayer of the Church

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

Good Shepherd, save us.

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

Good Shepherd, lead us.

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

Good Shepherd, guide us.

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

Good Shepherd, console us.

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

Good Shepherd, inspire us.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.

Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. 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.



WELS Connection Video

WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

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

804 | Am Jesus' Little Lamb



Take Home Questions

Acts 13:15,16a,26-39

1. The Jewish congregation in Antioch began their worship service with readings from the Law and the Prophets. In his sermon Paul refers repeatedly to the Law and Prophets and quotes from them. Explain why this was important as Paul introduced Jesus to these people.
2. How do these verses demonstrate that God's Word is trustworthy as Paul points to Old Testament promises and the events of Jesus' life and resurrection?

Revelation 7:9-17

3. What is the focus of the worship that's mentioned throughout these verses?
4. Work through the individual phrases from verses 15-17, meditating on each one. What will each mean for you when John's vision becomes our sight?

John 10:22-30

5. Why didn't the Jews in these verses believe in Jesus? Even if the Jews did not want to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, what should have convinced them that he was?
6. Verse 28 records three promises. List them and explain why each is precious to Christians.

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: The Light in the Dark

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Now What?

The window for calling teachers “from the field” is now closed. As mentioned in the monthly newsletter, we do have other options to fill our vacancies. The first step is requesting a graduate assignment from Martin Luther College (MLC). We have completed that paperwork, however, a request does not guarantee an assignment. When determining assignments, the District Presidents examine not only the needs of the various schools, but also the gifts of the graduates. The assignments will be announced during the MLC Call Service, which is on Saturday, May 17 at 2:30 pm. If you want to find out in real time whether we receive a graduate, you can find a link to the livestream at mlc-wels.edu/events/commencement.

After School Help Needed for Fall

We are close to being able to offer after-school care again next school year. However, we are still in need of a few more volunteers or people looking to be hired. This could be as simple as one day a week. If you know of anyone who is looking for a few hours of income, please mention this position to them. This is a vital program for many of our school families, so please consider volunteering or applying.

Confirmation at New Time

We have four teens who will be confirmed in the faith next Sunday. If you like to be a part of this service, please note that this year **teen confirmation will take place at the 8:00 am service**.

Church Directories Available

The church directories that were ordered are on the Ministry Table, which is located across from the mailslots. Each directory is labelled with a name. If you didn't order a directory, but want one, we have extras. They are available from the church office for \$20.

Caring for Mind, Body, and Soul

Mental health affects every part of our lives, including our spiritual well-being. Seeking help isn't a sign of weak faith. It's good stewardship of the life God has given you. This Mental Health Awareness Month, let's encourage one another to care for our hearts and minds. For tips from professional counselors, sign up for Christian Family Solutions' weekly Mental Health Moment emails at ChristianFamilySolutions.org.

Sunday	8:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship
Monday	6:30 pm	Sisters on a Mission 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
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:00 PM	Confirmation Banquet
	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	Sunday Worship/ Teen Confirmation
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 214

Amazing Grace Update

Thru May 4: \$103,466 toward mortgage principal

Goal: \$125,000 in 125 days (by May 31)

Next Sunday

Theme: Because He Lives We Live Lives of Lavish Love

Readings: Acts 11:1-18; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 13:31-35

Upcoming Events

May 23 ~ Pops Concert at NLHS

May 30 ~ Last Day of School

June 1 ~ New Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM Worship and 10:30 AM Bible Study

COMING THIS SUMMER



ONLY ONE
SUNDAY SERVICE
AT 9:00 AM

Begins June 1



www.stpaulswr.org

311 14th Ave S | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715-421-3634 | churchoffice@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org