

resurrection
REALity

WE WILL OVERCOME THIS BROKEN WORLD

Seventh Sunday of Easter

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

May 12, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, you have overcome this world for my sake. Strengthen me today, I pray, that I might not be tempted to give in to the sin of this world. For the times I fail, Lord, forgive me and cover me with your holiness. Bless my listening to your Word that it may continue to sanctify me in the truth of your grace. In your powerful name I pray. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth
Harriet Langrehr

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The Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church that highlights the Word of God and the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CHOIR

Celebrate God's Love

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

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

DECLARATION OF GRACE

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, 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 unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

²So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Brothers, carefully

select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{7:2a}Stephen said, “Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen!

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers—⁵³you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it.”

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 124C



1 If God had not been on our side and had not
2 Their fu - rious wrath, did God per - mit, would sure - ly
3 Blest be the LORD, who foiled their threat that they could



come to aid us, our foes with all their pow'r and
have con - sumed us and as a deep and yawn - ing
not de - vour us. Our souls, like birds, es - caped their



pride would sure - ly have dis - mayed us, for we, his
pit with life and limb en - tombed us. A hell - ish
net; they could not o - ver - pow'r us. The snare is



flock, would have to fear the dev - il's wolves, both far and
storm would o'er us roll from Sa - tan, who de - sires our
bro - ken— we are free! Our help - er and our strength is



near, who rise in might a - gainst us.
soul and seeks to o - ver - whelm us.
he who made the earth and heav - ens.

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Martin Luther
Tune: adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams; Christian Egenolff
Text and tune: Public domain*

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God

and keep his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. ⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:18

Alleluia! I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 17:11b–19

^{11b}Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³“But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One.

¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷“Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

446 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense and my Sav - ior,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to
3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by
4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence
5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new with this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;
hope for - ev - er; faith's strong hand the rock has found,
I am tak - en; but by faith I now dis - cern
be en - shroud - ed; in this bod - y I shall view

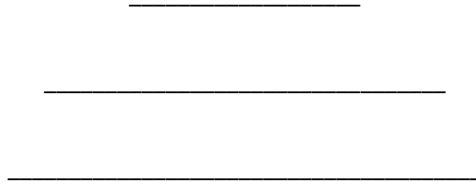


rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, though the
shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven
that from death I shall a - wak - en with my
God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; in this



night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
fear, or could the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.
Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.
flesh I then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

What the Truth Brings:



Stand

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

OFFERING

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God, in the beauty of Eden you created a man and a woman and brought them together in marriage. You enabled them to be fruitful and increase in number and so you established the family. Help us to see in your creating wisdom your love for parents and children.

Move us to be thankful for mothers and fathers and for all the blessings you bring to our homes.

Today we remember the mothers who loved us even before we were born, who endured the trauma of childbirth, and who cared for us when we could not care for ourselves. On this day and on other days cause us to recall the hours they spent and the sacrifices they made so that we could be content and carefree as we grew up.

Lead us to express our thanks and return the love our mothers showed to us.

We cannot thank you enough for mothers and fathers, too, who brought us to Holy Baptism, taught us simple prayers at mealtime, and read us Bible stories at bedtime. Forgive us for resenting their correction and ignoring their guidance as they desired to keep us on the narrow path of life with Christ.

Never let us forget the Christian training they gave to us.

We remember with compassion the mothers who were not always able to reflect your love in our lives. Help us understand the pressures they carried and the sadness they experienced. Take away unhappy memories and rid us of resentment.

Lead us to forgive them as you have forgiven us.

We confess our failures to hold our parents in love. For the naughtiness of childhood, the flare-ups of youth, the overconfidence of adulthood, and for all the words and actions spoken in haste and to hurt, we ask you and our parents for pardon.

Give us courage to make up for past sins when we can.

As their minds and bodies age, help us to support our parents as well as we can. Give us patience to accept their struggles for independence and strength to deal with their weaknesses. Enable us to keep them mindful of Jesus and his promises of a perfect life in heaven.

As they brought us to your Word, so lead us to keep them close to your Word.

Keep in your care all the mothers of our world. Comfort mothers who have been separated from their children. Give strength to mothers who care for children who are sick or troubled. Encourage mothers in societies where mothering is disrespected or discouraged. We pray especially for those who long to be mothers but have not been so blessed.

We pray you to preserve and protect the blessed task of motherhood.

Brief intercessions may be spoken here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

So many women have influenced our lives. Lead us to think about their wisdom, compassion, patience, and encouragement and give us opportunities to say thank you when we can. Help us imitate their care for us as we work and play with children and young adults.

Strengthen us to love others as Jesus loved us. Amen.



HYMN

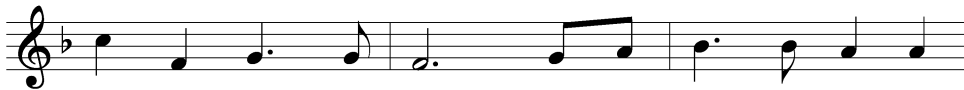
470 Like the Golden Sun Ascending



1 Like the gold - en sun as - cend - ing, break - ing through the
 2 Thanks to you, O Christ vic - to - rious! Thanks to you, O
 3 You have died for my trans - gres - sion, all my sins on
 4 For the joy your ad - vent gave me, for your gos - pel's



gloom of night, on the earth its glo - ry spend - ing so that
 Lord of life! Death has now no pow - er o'er us, you have
 you were laid. You have won for me sal - va - tion, on the
 great re - ward, for your bap - tism which has saved me, for your



dark - ness takes to flight, thus my Je - sus from the
 con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause you did a -
 cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -
 sup - per and your Word; for your death, the bit - ter



grave and death's dis - mal, dread - ful cave rose tri -
 rise and have o - pened par - a - dise! None can
 rise and shall meet you in the skies. Death it -
 scorn, for your res - ur - rec - tion morn: Lord, I



um - phant Eas - ter morn - ing at the ear - ly pur - ple dawn - ing.
 ful - ly sing the glo - ry of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
 self is tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.
 thank you and ex - tol you, and in heav'n I shall be - hold you.

*Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.
 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Stand

PRAYER

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, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. 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.

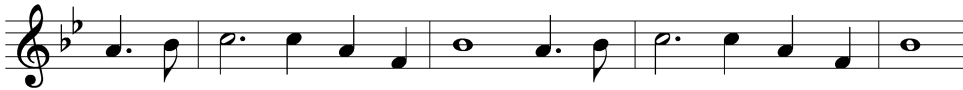
Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

839 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt.

Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXAMINATION

Join us today in the sanctuary in between services for the examination of our potential confirmands this year. This will be in place of Bible study today. The congregation is invited to review the doctrines of the Bible and to witness these young Christians profess their faith.

DIFFICULT DOCTRINES

Our final midweek Bible study of the year will be on *Difficult Doctrines*. In this study we'll explore the truths and applications of the doctrines of election, fellowship, and conversion. Join us the next two weeks as we seek to have a better grasp on these challenging teachings.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL PICNIC

In the hope that more of our church family will be able to attend, this year we're going to have our church and school picnic on Sunday, May 26, following the second service. It will be held at the revamped school grounds so the congregation can enjoy the new blessings we have at the school. There will be food and games and good fellowship and fun.

The faculty is leading the planning and preparation, but we need much help. Please consider helping. We look for many volunteers to make this picnic a success for our St. Paul's family. A planning meeting will be next Thursday, May 2, in the church basement, at 6:00 pm.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the lobby so we can prepare for the number of people who plan to attend.

ST. PAUL'S LIBRARY WISH LIST

We have new beautiful cabinets installed in the basement. The plan for the upper cabinets is to develop a bigger church library for members to utilize. A library wish list has been compiled of books and series that would provide a great blessing to the congregation as we seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, his work in the world, the history of salvation and church history, how to interact with people of other religions and evaluate the teachings of other Christian denominations, and more. If you would like to donate money toward the purchase of new books for our library, you can find copies of the wish list printed in the narthex. You can submit gifts via the offering plate with "library" in the memo line, and if you'd like a specific book or series purchased then please send a note to Pastor Groth.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2024 Weekly Budget: \$11,826.00 Budget to Date: \$212,868.00

Received Last Week: \$8,317.48 Rec'd to Date: \$162,332.45

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 139 Online Viewers: 55 10:00 am: 77 Total: 271

Sunday Bible Study: 26 Sunday School: 8 Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 23

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Examination
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	6:00 pm	Bible Basics Class
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
TUESDAY	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Confirmation
		Worship with Communion
NEXT MONDAY	6:00 pm	School Play
NEXT THURSDAY	7:00 pm	Ascension & Graduation Service



WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

608-486-2754

401 16th Ave. N, Bangor, WI 54614

stpaulsbangor.com