



HE LIVES TO GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE

Second Sunday of Easter

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

April 12, 2026

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

Risen Savior, I can have doubts about your rising from the dead, and I can especially have doubts about what it therefore means about your work on my behalf. Calm my doubts today with the proof you provided to the first disciples and recorded for me to know all these years later. Help me not only trust in but also experience the peace your victory gives me. In you 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.



SETTING ONE

p.154

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.

OPENING HYMN (8:00 am)

919 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.; Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.; Text and tune: Public domain

3K & 4K (10:00 am)

This is the Day

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.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



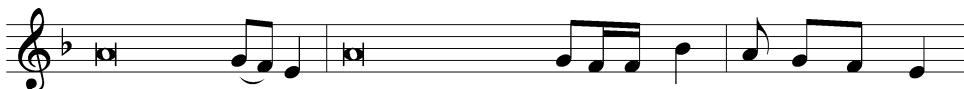
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



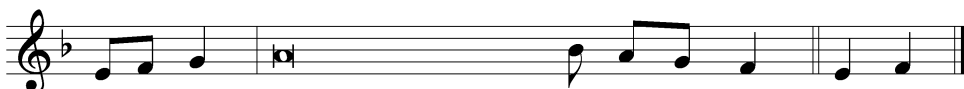
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



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.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

²²Men of Israel, hear these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man recommended to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know. ²³This man, who was handed over by God's set plan and foreknowledge, you killed by having lawless men nail him to a cross. ²⁴He is the one God raised up by freeing him from the agony of death, because death was not able to hold him in its grip.

²⁵Indeed, David says concerning him:

I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart was glad,

and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh also will rest in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon my life to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life.
You will fill me with joy in your presence.

²⁹"Gentlemen, brothers, I can speak confidently to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he saw what was coming and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, saying that he was neither abandoned to the grave nor did his flesh see decay.

³²"This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

513 In You Is Gladness



1 In you is glad - ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 If he is ours, _____ we fear no pow - ers, not of



sun - shine of my heart. By you are giv - en the gifts of
earth or sin or death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis -



heav - en, you the true Re - deem - er are. Our souls are
tress - es; he can change them with a breath. Where-fore the



wak - ing, our bonds are break - ing; who trusts you
sto - ry tell of his glo - ry with hearts and



sure - ly has built se - cure - ly and stands for - ev - er.
voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es in him for - ev - er.



Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are pin - ing to see your
Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for glad - ness, win o - ver



shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing to you are
sad - ness, love him and praise him and still shall



cling - ing now and for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
raise him glad hymns for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Text and tune: Public domain



SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴into an inheritance that is undying, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵Through faith you are being protected by God's power for the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

⁶Because of this you rejoice very much, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various kinds of trials ⁷so that the proven character of your faith—which is more valuable than gold, which passes away even though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, yet by believing in him, you are filled with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

Alleluia!

**Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19–31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

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.

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–1679; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941.; (st. 5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

The Proof Provided

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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

OFFERTORY

750 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*



1 We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re-ceive



all that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, abr.; Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889; Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and merciful God, 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 and comfort for others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and 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.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

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 everything we need for life and godliness.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

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.



HYMN

850 *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re - sound, and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more: praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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.

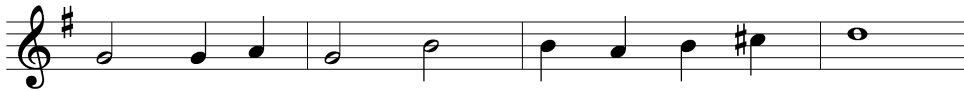
Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

931 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home-ward way;
3 Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise.
with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.
turn thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.



Once more we bless thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep thy chil - dren free,
Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait thy word of peace.
that in this house have called up - on thy name.
for dark and light are both a - like to thee.
call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, abr.

Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING TODAY

We will have a quarterly voters' meeting today at 11:15 am in the church basement.

LWMS SPRING RALLY

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) Scenic Coulee Circuit Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ridgeville, WI. The address is 21693, County Highway A, Tomah, WI. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm with the opening devotion starting at 1:30 pm. The guest speaker for the rally will be Rev. Joe Fricke, Western Wisconsin Mission Board member who will be presenting on Home Missions (Western Wisconsin District) specific to our rally. As a reminder, the event organizers may provide childcare and if any parents would be interested in this opportunity, contact Ruth Elsen, 608-461-8092.

WELS/ELS SINGLES EVENT

WELS/ELS Singles invite all Singles/Widowed/Divorced to join us for hiking at Wildcat State Park on Saturday, April 25, at 2 pm. We will meet in the Upper Parking Lot. Length of the hike will be determined by the group. RSVP is not required. Questions email Rachel at rachelfritz@yahoo.com.

PRAYERS

This week we keep in our prayers: Brian Berg, Gary and Christa Lemke, Clarice Koltermann, Marcie Richmond, Herb Miller, Dan Chandler, Vivian Havens, Scott Rich, and Shelly Horstman.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2026 Weekly Budget: \$11,428.44	Budget to Date: \$159,998.16
Received Last Week: \$11,028.97	Rec'd to Date: \$129,352.92

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Holy Thursday: 133	Online Viewers: 17	Total: 150	
Good Friday 1:30 pm: 181	7:00 pm: 45	Online Viewers: 17	Total: 243
Easter 8:00 am: 149	Online Viewers: 76	10:00 am: 198	Total: 423

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Quarterly Voters' Meeting
	6:30 pm	PACE Meeting
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Church Choir Practice
TUESDAY	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
	3:30 pm	Public School Catechism Class
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
	11:30 am	Bible Information Class

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist	Irene Bakken

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