



HE LIVES TO CALL ME TO LIVE FOR HIM

Sixth Sunday of Easter

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

May 10, 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

Almighty Lord, you showed the power of your love for me when you sent Jesus to die for me and raised him to life for me. Forgive me for the times I don't return love back to you and instead disobey you. Refresh me in your mercy today, and give me your Word in song, absolution, reading, and sermon so I can better obey it in my life. In Jesus I pray this. 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 THREE

p.188

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

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

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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

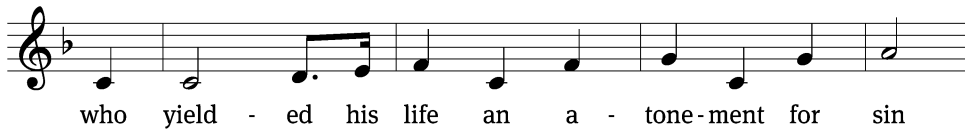
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son
and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, abr., alt.

Tune: William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

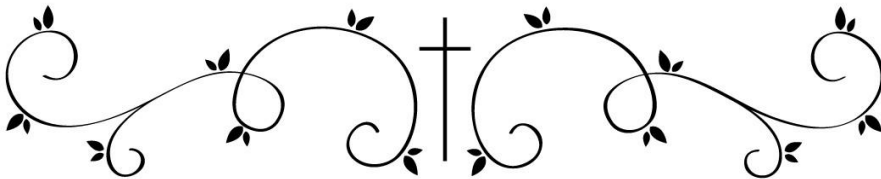
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; 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 17:22–31

²²Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. ²⁵Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. ²⁶From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. ²⁷He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. ³⁰Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



HYMN

708 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to
 2 Hith - er - to thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -



sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 to this place; and I know thy hand will lead me
 strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,



call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
 safe - ly home by thy good grace. Je - sus sought me when a
 bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee: prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise his
 stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; he, to
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



name, I'm fixed up - on it, name of God's re - deem - ing love.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with his pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled. ¹⁵But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.

¹⁷Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, ¹⁸because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. ²¹And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²²He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:15,16

Alleluia!

If you love me, keep my commands.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

¹⁵"If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him."

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

471 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 heart and will on things a - bove that we
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer thro' your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Text: © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889

Tune: Public domain

A Proper Knowledge

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

609 *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer sts. 1, 3*



1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us;



we bless your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, Haarlem, 1626

Text and tune: Public domain

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (8:00 am)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added here.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

HYMN

702 *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake*



1 “Come, fol - low me,” the Sav - ior spake, “all in my
 2 “I am the light, I light the way, a god - ly
 3 “I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord and take the



way a - bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake,
 life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day,
 soul’s sal - va - tion, your heart from ev - ’ry guile to free,
 cross ap - point - ed and, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word,



o - bey my call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
 I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 from sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 in suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e’er be - tide, take my ex - am - ple for your guide.
 well I show how you must so - journ here be - low.
 of the soul and lead you to your heav’n - ly goal.”
 bat-tle’s strain the crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677, abr.; (st. 3): *Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge*, 1695
Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

PRAYER

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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

695 Take My Life and Let It Be



- 1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Examination
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:30 am	BIC Orientation Lesson (2.0)
TUESDAY	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Bible Study (same as Tues.)
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:10 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:00 am	Confirmation Service with Communion
NEXT MONDAY	6:00 pm	3K/4K Program @ School
NEXT THURSDAY	7:00 pm	Ascension and Graduation Service

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Brock Groth
Harriet Langrehr

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We praise the Lord that the following children of God have joined our congregation.

John, Amanda, Nora, Marc, and Meri Anderson
Maria Freismuth
Donn Garves
Dylan and Amber Hanick
Jason Koopmann
Megan Manke
Chad, Shannon, and Maddie Runge
Josh, Sammie, Collins, and Charlotte Sherry
Kyle, Kayla, Avery, and Amelia Wright

We also thank the Lord for the confirmations of current members Julianne Thielker and Victoria Ruedy.

Welcome to our St. Paul's family! Please join us for cake in the church basement after the 8:00 am service as we welcome them into our fellowship.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION TODAY

We will have a public examination of seven eighth graders in place of Bible study between services today in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend and refresh themselves in these foundational truths of our faith. Sunday School will still take place in the church basement.

AMMO CAN FUNDRAISER FOR LMSG

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is a non-profit organization providing Christ-centered support to WELS/ELS military service members, veterans, and their families. This whole month of May we look to support their ministry to Christian soldiers. An ammo can has been placed in the narthex through Memorial Day where you can place your freewill offering. Your offering will go to support the LMSG-sponsored retreats and workshops, scholarships and grants, and the production of the Christian Service Members' Handbook. Find out more about LMSG at lutheranmilitary.org.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL PICNIC – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Plans are underway for our upcoming Church and School Picnic scheduled for May 24th at 11:15 am. To ensure this potluck is a success, we are looking for volunteers to help with the planning process. Please join us at the school on Monday, May 11th at 6:00 pm to share your ideas and get involved. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office at 608-486-2641.

YARD SIGNS!

It is that time of year to dig out your St. Paul's Lutheran School yard signs to help promote enrollment at our school. If you are in need of a yard sign, they are located in the church narthex.

OWLS MEETING

The Coulee Region Owls will be holding their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 Noon with a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. The program will be the children from First Lutheran performing their spring play. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch and the young children's play. There will be a free will offering.

PRAYERS

This week we keep in our prayers: Gary and Christa Lemke, Clarice Koltermann, Dan Chandler, Vivian Havens, Shelly Horstman, and Bernadine Wehrs.

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2026 Weekly Budget: \$11,428.44 Budget to Date: \$205,711.92

Received Last Week: \$13,480.50

Rec'd to Date: \$167,928.78

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 124 Online Viewers: 67

10:00 am: 106 Total: 297

Sunday Bible Study: 29 Sunday School: 7

Tues./Wed. Bible Study: 16

