

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE
CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION (CLC)

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent



THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 4, 2021

WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS OUR SAVIOR. Connected by grace through faith to Him, our risen Lord, we rejoice in the victory of His resurrection and in full confidence of our own resurrection. As we view the glory of our Savior in God's Word today may we be led to a stronger faith and reliance on Him for our every need. May the Holy Spirit bless us richly in our worship on this Easter morning!

TO OUR WORSHIP GUESTS a special welcome in Jesus' name! We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today. We wish you God's richest blessings and invite you to leave a record of your visit by signing our guest book. If you have no church home in the community and are seeking a fellowship in which you might worship and serve your Lord, we invite you to speak with the Pastor who will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.



Large print bulletins are available on the shelf by
the tract rack or by request from an usher.

You may contribute an offering for God's kingdom work by
putting it in the collection plate located by the back pew.
There will be no offering collection during the service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Liturgical Note: The paraments up front have been changed to white, reminding us of the glory of the risen Christ that is now also ours, through faith in Him!

Opening Prayer

Hymn 457

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

P Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (says) Amen.

Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

P Lord, we confess to You our sinful condition and our sinful behavior.

C Have mercy on us, Father in heaven. Bless us and keep us.

P Lord, we realize that we have deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment.

C Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus. Make Your face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

P Lord, we are not able to atone for our sins, nor can we set ourselves free from the guilt of our sin.

C Have mercy upon us, Holy Spirit. Lift up Your countenance upon us and give us peace.

P Jesus was delivered over to death because of our sins. He was raised to life because God declared us righteous. Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with Him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing His glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C (says) Amen.

Choir Anthem

Hallelujah! Now Be Joyful!

Words and Arr.: Natalie Sleeth

First Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10

The women at the empty tomb

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P Alleluia, Christ, being raised from the dead, will die no more. Death has no more dominion over Him. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Alleluia!

Second Lesson

Acts 4:1-12

Salvation is found only in the risen Christ

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

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.

Hymn 799 (*tan hymnal*)

This Is the Feast of Victory

Sermon

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

- 1. As the Firstfruits He gives us certainty!*
- 2. As the Conqueror He gives us victory!*

Hymn 461 (1-4)

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Presentation of the Offering

Responsive Prayer

P Heavenly Father, God of grace, You have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C **He was delivered over to death for our sins, and raised to life for our justification.**

P We marvel at the love You showed by Your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at Your mighty power which raised him from the dead.

C **We praise You for sending the true Life and Light into the world.**

P Lord Jesus, God of grace, You have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by Your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

C **You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.**

P With the church of every age, we offer You unending praise, for You have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt. Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to You for rest, knowing that because of Your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C **Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.**

P Holy Spirit, God of grace, You have called us by the Gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen lord.

C **We glorify You for opening our eyes to see the light of life.**

P Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when You will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ. Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear Your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C **Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia!**

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.

Hymn 461 (5-8)

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

(all stand for the final stanza)

The Benediction

P Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C (sings) **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn 467

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

(Choir, stanzas 1-4; Congregation, stanzas 6-7)

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist: Jeana Kettner; Usher: Mark Hartmeister

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today (4/4) 8:30 am Choir Practice
 9:30 am Worship Service
Sun (4/11) 9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
 10:45 am Sunday School (The Emmaus Disciples, NT 42)
 10:45 am Mary/Martha Ladies' Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Clean-Up Day: Sat. April 24, beginning at 8:00 am
Quarterly Voters' Meeting: Sun. April 25, 10:45 am
Elders' Meeting: Sun. May 2, 8:30 am

THANKS TO ALL who contributed menu items and their serving talents for last week's Palm Sunday breakfast. Everything was great!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: We are looking for someone to fill the position of Sunday School Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. Mike Sprengeler, who has served faithfully in this capacity for many years, is stepping down. If you are interested in serving the Lord in this way please inform the pastor or President Ed Chiappetti. If you would like more information please speak with Mike or the pastor. (Note: All adult members of St. Paul are eligible to serve as the Sunday School superintendent.)

ST. PAUL DIRECTORY: A new church directory will be prepared and printed soon. Please pass along to the pastor any changes to your contact information (if you haven't already done so) so that it may be included in the new directory. Thank you!

MISSION OUTREACH IDEAS: Copies of the "Tacoma Outreach Menu" were recently distributed to our membership, with a request to have everyone look it over and circle outreach ideas for our congregation to consider implementing. (Extra copies of the "menu" are on the shelf under the tract rack if you did not receive one.) Please return your menu, with ideas circled, to the pastor or President Chiappetti by Sunday, April 21. Suggestions from our members will be discussed at the Quarterly Voters' Meeting on April 28 with a view towards implementing one or more in the coming year. Thank you!

SYNOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ “Professor John Reim has announced his retirement effective the end of the current academic year. His faithful service to our church and our school will be acknowledged during the ILC Class Day/Graduation festivities on May 21-22. Our custom is to present a monetary gift as a token of our appreciation. CLC members are invited to contribute to this gift which will be presented to him at Graduation. Please make your checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran College and indicate: ‘Prof. Reim Retirement.’ Send your gift to: Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701” (from President Michael Eichstadt).

- ▶ “The 2021 ManUp! Men's Retreat will be held Sept.30–Oct.3, 2021, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of La Crosse. ManUp! offers strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. The cost is \$75, including lodging and meals. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. You will also find additional information, pictures of previous ‘ManUp’ weekends, and reviews of those who have attended in the past” (from Pastor Nathanael Mayhew).

- ▶ “Parents of Immanuel Lutheran High School students are presently working on this year’s After Banquet Party to be held May 8, 2021. The ILHS Banquet is held at a local venue with the After-Banquet Party immediately afterwards in the high school gymnasium. The After-Banquet Party is held to provide a fun and safe place for the students to enjoy this special evening honoring the senior class. The gym is decorated to a theme with games, prizes, refreshments and entertainment provided at NO cost to the students. Nearly every student attends the After-Banquet party, even if they don’t attend the Banquet. We rely on donations from the parents, families and local businesses. We are able to buy some prizes at local businesses, but if you would like to donate gift cards or prizes, that would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding prizes and/or donations, please contact: Jennifer Radermacher, imjenrad44@gmail.com. Monetary donations may be sent to: ILC After-Banquet Committee, c/o Immanuel Lutheran College, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Thank you for considering!” (from ILHS Parents’ Association/After Banquet Committee).

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR DEVOTIONS
APRIL 5-10, 2021

Mon Isaiah 12 Easter won't ever be over, for Jesus is still alive after He absorbed all of God's justifiable anger against mankind. His self-sacrifice was an *excellent* thing to do, for He and He alone could bear the sin burden all the way into the grave and come out the other side alive and well. Hallelujah! **Isaiah 25:6-9** Jesus was bitten by death, and it killed Him. Some hours later, He took the bite out of death; Easter demonstrates that death is now mortal.

Tues John 20:1-18 It took a while for the truth to sink in (1-10), and angels helped Mary realize it (11-15). We note that Jesus did not turn His back on Mary but stood close by, ready to calm her distress and direct her toward His ascension, proof positive that He had completed His assignment on Earth.

Wed 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 The Christian/God's religion is not earth-born, but heaven-sent (19). God superseded the earth-born/sin factor via Jesus' resurrection, and applied it to us (20-23). That's wonderful all by itself, and there's still more to come (24-26). Meanwhile, let's enjoy our blessings!

Thurs Psalm 30 David had personal reasons for extolling the LORD, and so do we. Hasn't God lifted us up from the grave with Jesus (1-3)? We too rejoice as each day of grace dawns (4-5) – and when troubles come along (6-7), we bring them to Jesus, asking Him to be our Helper (8-10). David had his reasons for giving thanks to God—over and over—and so do we (11-12).

Fri Mark 16:1-8 Human weakness is like a big stone, but not too big for one of God's messengers to roll away, look us in the eye, and tell us face-to-face, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, but I have good news: He has left the cemetery behind and is going about His business; you will see Him, as He promised." Lord, embolden us to tell this good news as we go about our business.

Sat 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Easter will be re-enacted on Judgment Day, when Jesus sees to it that our deadness gets overcome, our corruption reverts to wholesomeness, and our mortality dissolves into immortality. How can this be, we wonder, since it's not the natural order of things. Well, God will reverse the natural order of things, all those factors which arise from and are bound with sin, for Jesus has pulled the stingers out of sin and death via His resurrection. That straightens out everything that was crooked. *Thanks be to God, who has given us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!* And that's not all, for He has also regenerated and re-conditioned us for our daily, loving service to Him in our corner of His Kingdom. Glory be to Jesus, now and forever after! Amen and Amen!