



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

April 21st, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

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A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

Opening Hymn: B282 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation says: And also with you.

-Introduction to Worship-

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

We sing: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always living in me!

M: Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

We sing: *No Other Name But the Name of Jesus*

Chorus: No other name, but the name of Jesus
No other name, but the name of the Lord
No other name but the name of Jesus
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;
His name is high above the heavens.
His name is exalted far above the earth;
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

Chorus

-We Pray Together-

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

C: The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON: *Acts 20:28-38*

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we

must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.

³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

We Sing: *Thy Word*

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way
Still, You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be with me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: *1 John 4:1-6*

4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the

antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 10:11-18*

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

BE SEATED

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: B284 *Go and Tell Mary and Martha*

Sermon: *The Good Shepherd's Sheep Listen to His Voice*

John 10:11-18

PLEASE STAND

Confession of Faith: *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 fully 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

Offering: B285 *He is Lord*

Prayers: *The Lord's Prayer*

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord has given us a holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

We sing: *Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty*

Refrain: Blessed be the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come.
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty
Who reigns forevermore.

Father in heaven, how we love you;
We lift your name in all the earth.
May Your kingdom be established in our praises,
as your people declare Your mighty works.

Refrain

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

C: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood. Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!

Distribution Hymn: B680 *Taste and See*

Thanksgiving Hymn: / Exalt Thee

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.

C: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in His true body and blood the pledge of Your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

Closing Hymn: R149 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274>

**Join us for Bible Class.
Wednesdays. 7 pm.**

<u>Serving at CoL:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Pianist	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Lee, Mike	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Reader		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Altar	Beth	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Refreshments	Ramona	Birthdays
Cleaning	Karis	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Mowing	Karis	<i>This Could Be You</i>

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Bible Class https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831357274
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Summerhouse, Slidell
Sunday	10 AM Bible Class, Sunday School; 11 AM Worship
May 5	Crawfish Boil
Jun 2	Confirmation
Jun 25-28	International Youth Rally , Fort Collins, CO
Jul 22-26	Camp South , Covington, GA

SYNOD NEWS

COP April 2024 meeting summary

The WELS Conference of Presidents (COP) met in April for its spring meeting. Among the items discussed or decided were:

- The COP reviewed the vacancy situation for pastors and teachers. The number of vacancies continues to rise gradually. Assignment days in May will help relieve the situation somewhat, but the problem will continue for the foreseeable future. The COP received a progress report from the Ministerial Recruitment Task Force, which will be making proposals to address the need for more workers.
- The New Teacher Induction Program and the Pastor Partners Program provide mentoring to newly assigned teachers and pastors for the first three years of their service. The cost to congregations has been \$1,000 per year and has not been increased for some time. To more adequately cover the cost of the program, the COP determined that, starting in 2025, the cost will be \$1,500 per worker.
- The COP was informed that a more thorough process for vetting non-MLC-trained teachers has been developed. The process will include evaluations of professional competency, background checks, pastoral recommendations, and district president interviews. Final details are still being determined.
- The COP reviewed the current calling process and made no changes to the current guidelines. The COP will continue discussing this issue at future meetings.

- The COP received a report from the committee planning the synod's 175th anniversary celebration in 2025. The committee has produced a pictorial history of the synod and updated the existing book on the synod's history. It is working on developing special video presentations and providing worship and Bible study resources for a synodwide celebration of the anniversary in the fall of 2025.
- The COP was pleased to learn that 96.7 percent of WELS congregations submitted their statistics for 2023 and 99.1 percent submitted Congregation Mission Offering subscriptions for 2024. The COP is grateful for this high level of participation.
- The COP issued the following divine calls:
 - Melanie Giddings was called to serve full time as the coordinator of the new synod K-12 religion curriculum.
 - Mr. Ryan Busman was called to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the Western Wisconsin District.
 - Rev. Nathan Cordes was called to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the south Minnesota District, the Nebraska District, and the Dakota-Montana District
- The COP will continue to monitor the issue of congregations that are discussing merging or closing. As a part of the COP's desire that these decisions are made in an orderly and legal way, the COP is updating the comprehensive guidelines that can help congregations in this process.
- The COP continued its work on the pastoral brief on the doctrine of the roles and men and women. The brief will be released and distributed as soon as it is completed. Similarly, the COP received an update from the committee addressing justice and critical theories.
- The COP discussed a proposal to make some changes to the procedure for nominating and electing synod officers. A final proposal is expected to be discussed at district conventions this summer.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

