



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

May 11th, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

11721 Morrison Rd. | New Orleans, LA | 70128
Pastor Daniel Kramer | crownoflifepastor@gmail.com
(504)595-0373 | (504)354-1999



A Service of Worship and Praise

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

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 280

He Arose

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

-We Lift Up Our Hands and Voices to God-

We sing:

In Moments Like These

In moments like these I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, "I love you Lord," singing, "I love you Lord;"
Singing, "I love you Lord. I love you."

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We stand here today before our Lord and Maker. He has created us to love Him and serve one another. But we have separated ourselves from Him with our sins. Let us be honest and confess to Him our sins.

C: Merciful Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I make no excuses. I have sinned against you by things I have done and the things I have not done. But I know that Jesus died for me. I stand before you in need of, and trusting in, your forgiveness.

We sing:

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

M: It is my duty and privilege as a called servant of God to announce to you that you are forgiven. You have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ and stand before Him forgiven of all your sins, His child, and an heir of eternal life. Let's thank Him for His amazing grace.

We sing:

He Looked Beyond My Fault

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.

I do not know just why Christ came to love me so,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me;

How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul,
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON

Acts 13:15, 16a, 26-39

¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

¹⁶ Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said:

²⁶ "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.

²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

³² "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

"You are my son;
today I have become your father.'

³⁴ God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

"I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

³⁵ So it is also stated elsewhere:

"You will not let your holy one see decay.'

³⁶ "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷ But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸ "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

We sing:

Order My Steps (v1)

Order my steps in Your Word dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, every day,
Send Your anointing, Father, I pray.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

"Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength

be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!"

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴ I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ 'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

'he will lead them to springs of living water.'

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

We sing:

Order My Steps (v3)

Bridle my tongue, let my words edify;
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy sight.
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night.
Order my steps in Your word.
Please, order my steps in Your word.

I want to walk worthy, My calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, And I'll do Your blessed will,
The world is ever changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I'll praise Your name.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:22-30

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 375

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

SERMON

The Good Shepherd's Sheep Listen to His Voice

John 10:22-30

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's 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

Instrumental

PLEASE STAND

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

M: Brother and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 559

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CAMM May 2025 Newsletter

Last December the clinic lost one of our members of staff, a nurse/midwife by the name of Mayase Banda. Mrs. Banda had worked at the clinic for 13 years. On Sundays, she would attend Martin Luther Church, which is on the grounds of the clinic. Pastor Titus Mbele conducted her funeral service. Is there anything one can talk about that happens without God being involved? I am not sure of anything, but one thing is that God exists everywhere and, at the end of the day, there is nothing that happens for no reason. She was one of the senior nurses, and we appreciate her work and time spent at the clinic.

Working as a member of the administrative staff at the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre, I am grateful for God's grace. The facility has seen people come to the health center from as far as 15 kilometers to seek medical services, and we have heard people say, "We came this far because the medicines in this facility are prayed for and we trust that we shall find the help." Others still say because of the name of God they trust they will be healed.

Appreciating God is acknowledging that while we were lost in sin, God did everything according to his plan to save us from the powers of Satan and power of death and indeed purchased us with his blood. Jesus Christ suffered death for the whole world to be saved. It's a gift worth appreciating. Maybe a question would be this: How do we show appreciation for what God has done in our lives? How do we as individuals, parents, children, families show this appreciation? When you are alone and look around at how far God has brought you, do you pause for a moment and appreciate him?

Appreciating God comes in many ways. I would rather raise a generation that will have fear for the Lord at all times. There are times when I see children who do not always live as God and their parents have taught them to live.

Finally, it would be a great thing if children would be encouraged to maintain the legacy of a Christian family, so that even when the parents are gone the faith will remain. As people, we discuss how well-mannered the children are, but sometimes I find it difficult to help families realize that they could do more to help their children to be faithful, truthful, honest.

I ask that you continue to pray for families and children and encourage them to grow strong in their faith.

Written by Alisad Banda, clinic administrator in Zambia

Assignment and graduation days at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

It's that time of year when we will again see prayers answered. Students at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., will be graduating from our WELS college of ministry. Some of those graduates will continue their preparation to be pastors at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. Others will graduate on Sat., May 17, having completed their training to be teachers and staff ministers. Later on that same day, candidates will be assigned to their places of service in God's kingdom. As we see those prayers for workers in God's harvest field answered, we respond with thanks to God for providing those workers and to the many young people who have answered God's call with the words, "Here am I. Send me!"

The following week, something similar will happen at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Seminary students in their second year will be assigned as vicars. For an entire year, they will see firsthand what the pastoral ministry is all about and gain hands-on experience in serving God's people with Word and sacrament. Seniors will also be assigned to their first place of service. Some will be assigned as pastors while others will be assigned for a year as tutors in our synodical ministerial education schools.

As of the April meeting of the Conference of Presidents, there were 156 pastoral vacancies in the synod, with 149 of those being parish pastor positions. With 25 candidates available, their assignment will reduce the number of pastor vacancies, but the pastoral shortage will continue.

A similar high vacancy rate is taking place in teacher positions. WELS school enrollments have increased significantly in the last two years—a real blessing—but that has caused a need for more teachers than are currently available. It's estimated that even after teacher candidates are assigned at Martin Luther College this month, there will still be approximately 100 to 120 vacancies in teaching positions. The Commission on Lutheran Schools has been working with congregations to find ways to fill the vacancies. At the same time, Martin Luther College has been redoubling its efforts to recruit both traditional and non-traditional teacher candidates. It will also be exploring other ideas to provide more teacher candidates.

We thank God for our ministerial training system and for the workers it trains so well. We send them into their new calls with the prayer that God will bless them and the people they serve.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Equipping leaders

“The WELS leadership conference offered a fantastic opportunity for our members to learn from experts across the synod and encourage them as leaders at our church,” says Rev. Kurtis Wetzel, pastor at Cross of Christ, Nampa, Idaho.

Wetzel and members from Cross of Christ attended the first two WELS National Conferences on Lutheran Leadership in 2020 and 2023. He and his congregation are planning to send another group to the leadership conference in Jan 2026.

Cross of Christ in Nampa is a mission congregation established as a second site to Cross of Christ in Boise. Wetzel shares, “Some of the guidance I received early on in our mission was to train up lay leaders quickly and involve members in lots of ministry.” The keynotes and workshops at the leadership conference equipped his members for just that.

“We are striving to equip and empower the universal priesthood at our congregation and encourage leaders to work alongside the called staff to do more ministry and increase our local impact on souls for eternity,” says Wetzel. “Cross of Christ has always encouraged personal witnessing. Because of some of the workshops on outreach and evangelism, our members came back with renewed outreach energy and shared with the congregation even more about the need for personal (as well as corporate) evangelism. This has energized other members at our church for witnessing.”

Member Cindy Harris says she was honored to be invited to attend the conference. “I was humbled to be in the company of so many gifted spiritual leaders who passionately shared their knowledge about how to best proclaim the gospel in our communities,” she says. “Our pastors at Cross of Christ in Idaho do a wonderful job of training and encouraging our members for works of service, but this was an opportunity to learn from pastors and teachers in other congregations throughout our church body, take it home, and share it!”

Cindy and her husband are founding members of Cross of Christ. She serves through leading a women’s Bible study and as the coordinator for the spiritual needs committee. She says of her time at the conference, “The whole time I was there I was thinking how wonderful it would be for every member back home to experience this conference. We ‘Western WELS’ members don’t often have the opportunity to personally experience the depth of our synod’s leadership and their passion for proclaiming the gospel throughout the world. It’s a taste of heaven!”

The next WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held Jan. 19–21, 2026, at the Hilton, Chicago. [lutheranleadership.com](https://www.lutheranleadership.com)

Serving at Col.:	Today	Next Sunday
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Keith, Seth	Lee
Reader	Edward, Jr.	Elijah
Altar	Karis	
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments		
Cleaning		
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Thursday	10:30 AM, Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM, Confirmation, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
May 18	Council Meeting
Jul 21-25	Camp South, Covington, GA
Jul 28-Aug 2	VBS: Wonder Junction

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget	Projected
Last Week	\$3,622.00	\$2,710.40	133.6%	
May	\$3,622.00	\$11,745.08	30.8%	\$11,443.17
Qtr-to-Date	\$14,180.38	\$35,235.25	40.2%	\$32,412.59
Year-to-Date	\$59,751.45	\$140,941.00	42.4%	\$166,722.13



*"...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*

in your bank app:



Zelle

