

A MEAL WITH



THE LORD

St. Paul's
Howards Grove, WI
April 6, 2023



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!



We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!



COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table. Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Worship Focus: *In Lent we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard his call to intensify our struggle against all that keeps us from loving him and one another. God's forgiveness received in baptism and the power of his Spirit to amend our sinful lives continue with us because of his love in Christ. In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Together we receive the gift of his body and blood with the bread and wine for our forgiveness and participate in the new covenant that makes us one with him and each other. Tonight, we investigate this "Meal with the Lord."*

Communion Preparation: *Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for worship and Communion are found on the inside cover of the hymnals.*

Welcome

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

CW 737

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Responses from Psalm 116

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;

He heard my cry for mercy.

The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;

I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

You, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,

That I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I will sacrifice a thank offering to you

and call on the name of the LORD.

Confession & Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

CW 409 sts. 1, 3



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent



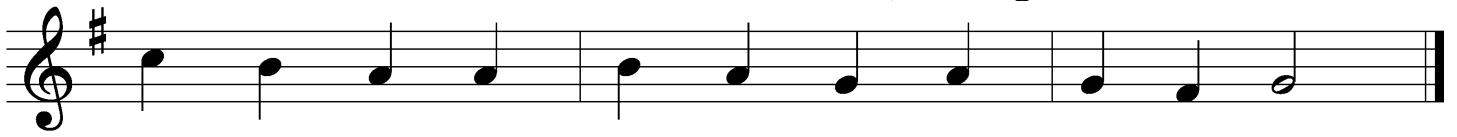
whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -



from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

New Member Induction

First Lesson

Exodus 24:1-11

When the LORD made the old covenant with Israel, the leaders went up to him, saw him, and ate and drank.

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.” ⁴Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23–28

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Stand

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1–15, 34

During the Passover meal with his disciples, Jesus washed their feet and told them to love each other as he loved them.

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

¹⁰Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”

¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

When You Woke That Thursday Morning

CW 416

SERMON

1 Corinthians 11

Test Yourself

Know what Jesus says

Believe what Jesus gives

Practice what Jesus teaches

Stand.

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

CW 677 sts. 1, 4, 8

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God’s promise to deliver them from death,

strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.

Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who receive Holy Communion together with us. **Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.**

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect. **Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.**

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.

Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. 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.

Words of Institution

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Be seated

Anthem

We Remember

Sung by Small Group

As we gather in this place, we remember. As we contemplate your grace, we remember. In the bread and in the wine, we can know your love divine. It's the season, it's the time, to remember.

As we bow our heads in prayer, we remember. In the fellowship we share, we remember. In the stillness of this space, we are safe in love's embrace. Let us turn our hearts to grace, and remember.

Refrain: We will remember. Gentle Lamb, Great I AM, we will remember you. In the mystery of this feast, we remember. As we claim your gift of peace, we remember. In each wonder and each sign, we can see your grand design. In the bread and in the wine, we remember.

When we work and when we rest, we remember. At your table, all are guests, we remember. Now our hope has been restored, and new life is our reward. Taste the goodness of the Lord and remember. *Refrain*

Distribution

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659

Stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, what you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 88

The altar is stripped of all its furnishings in token of Jesus' abandonment by his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. The congregation observes the stripping of the altar as Psalm 88 is sung. At the conclusion of the psalm, the church lights are dimmed. There will not be a formal dismissal by the ushers. You may remain for silent prayer and meditation if you desire. Please keep conversation at a low volume as you depart this evening.

Lord, my God, I call by day; I cry aloud at night. Let my prayer before you come; incline your ear to my cry. For my soul is filled with troubles; my life draws near to the grave. I am reckoned as one in the tomb; I've reached the end of my strength.

Like the slain lying in their graves, like one among the dead. Like those you remember no more, you've laid me in the depths. Imprisoned I cannot escape. My eyes grow dim with grief. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, Lord. Your waves crash over me.

Is your love proclaimed in the grave? Your fidelity in the tomb? Lord, I call to you for help; I stretch out my hands to you. Why do you reject me, Lord? Why hide me from your face? Friend and neighbor you've taken away; my only friend is darkness. My only friend is darkness.

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ORGANIST: Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Bev Gumm, and Lisa Marten

ALTAR GUILD: Ione Prange, Lisa Specht, Lori Wehrmann.

Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.



Worship Times
Holy Week

Good Friday, April 7th:
1:00 p.m. School Worship Service-Grades 1-8 Sing
6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9th
6:30 a.m. Easter Dawn Worship
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. Festival Easter Worship
Adult Choir Sings in Both Festival Services
No Monday Night Worship on April 10th