



Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1600 S. Main St.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235
www.stpetersfdl.net

Worship: Thursday, 6:30pm ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 am
Phone: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier: 517-8808

Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

*Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice,
please feel free to ask one of the ushers or a pastor.*

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HOLY COMMUNION Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason we respectfully request that all of those who are not members of the WELS or our sister ELS please speak with one of the pastors before communing with us. Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Lord, gather all your children, wherever they may be, and lead them on to heaven to live eternally with you, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear, whose Spirit guards and gives me the joy to persevere. Amen.

SERVICE THEME The Lord equips us to be his witnesses that we might proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in the risen Christ to all people.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service of Word & Sacrament

OPENING HYMN

Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day | CW 599

Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day And hear us, we implore you;
None of your children turn away Who now appear before you.
We come before your face And pray: let your rich grace
Descend from heav'n above In all your wondrous love,
And keep us by your Spirit.

Oh, bless your Word to all the young; Let them, your truth possessing,
Bear witness true with heart and tongue, Their faith and ours confessing.
From mother's arms your grace With love did them embrace.
Baptized into your name, As yours you did them claim;
O Lord, as yours now own them!

And when they leave their childhood home, When Satan comes alluring,
May their baptismal grace become A refuge reassuring.
God's covenant is sure; His promises endure.
They ne'er shall be undone Who trust in God alone-
God is their mighty Father!

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

C: (spoken) And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: (spoken) Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: (spoken) Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: (spoken) Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: (spoken) Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: (spoken) Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

SONG OF PRAISE

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word | CW 162

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie, Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear What cheer! Christ victorious, Rising glorious,
Life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

The LORD makes us competent to spread the sweet fragrance of the gospel to those around us.

¹²When I came to Troas to proclaim the gospel of Christ and a door was opened for me by the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ and reveals the fragrance of his knowledge through us in every place. ¹⁵Yes, we are the fragrance of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶To some we are the odor of death that is a prelude to death, to the others the fragrance of life that is a prelude to life. And who is qualified for these things? ¹⁷To be sure, we are not like many who peddle the word of God for profit. Instead, in Christ we speak with sincerity in the sight of God, as men from God.

^{3:1}Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets, but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.

⁴Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent by ourselves to claim that anything comes from us; rather, our competence is from God. ⁶He also made us competent as ministers of a new testament (not of letter, but of spirit). For the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.

VERSE OF THE DAY

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

The risen Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit, empowering us to be his witnesses.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

³⁸He said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost

does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³He took it and ate in front of them. ⁴⁴He said to them, “These are my words, which I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise to You and Adoration | **CW 470**

Praise to you and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may From your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for you, And my faith and hope renew
In your birth, your life, and passion, In your death and resurrection.

SERMON

Acts 12:1-19

James lost his life and Peter was imprisoned because of their testimony about Jesus Christ.

At about that time, King Herod laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After arresting Peter, Herod put him in

prison and handed him over to four squads of four soldiers each to guard him. Herod intended to bring him before the people for trial after the Passover. ⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church earnestly offered up prayer to God for him.

⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. He was bound with two chains, while sentries were in front of the door, guarding the prison.

⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood near him, and a light shone in the cell. The angel woke Peter up by striking him on the side, saying, “Quick, get up!” The chains fell from his wrists.

⁸Then the angel said to him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” So he did so. Then the angel told him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.” ⁹Peter went out, following the angel, but he did not realize that what the angel was doing was really happening. He thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰When they had passed through the first and second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city. It opened all by itself for them. They went outside, walked down one street, and immediately the angel left him.

¹¹When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from everything the Jewish people were expecting.”

¹²When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, who is also called Mark. Many had gathered there and were praying. ¹³When Peter knocked at the entrance gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴She recognized Peter’s voice and was so overjoyed, she did not open the gate. Instead she ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

¹⁵They told her, “You are out of your mind!” But she kept on insisting it was so, and they started saying, “It’s his angel.”

¹⁶Meanwhile, Peter kept on knocking. When they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷Peter motioned to them with his hand to be silent and described to them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He said, “Tell these things to James and to the brothers.” Then he left and went on to another place.

¹⁸At daybreak, there was no small commotion among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. ¹⁹After Herod searched for him and did not find him, he questioned the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

“Always Rest Securely in Christ”

Pastor Zuberbier

1. In spite of attacks on your faith.
2. Through the fellowship of the church.

PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (spoken) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (spoken) We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (spoken) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the 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 for ever and ever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

C: (spoken) Amen. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN ON THURSDAY

In Christ Alone | CWS 752
Makenna Herbrand, Chloe Brown & Brianna Wals

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings
cease! My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN ON SUNDAY

Take My Life and Let It Be | CW 469

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use Ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.

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.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

M: 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.

C: (spoken) Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

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.

C: (spoken) Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

May God the Father of Our Lord | CWS 597

May God the Father of our Lord, Who called you by his holy Word,
Perfect, establish, settle you, Keep you through faith forever true.

In Jesus Christ may you be blessed And brought to his eternal rest.
The work he has in you begun, He will perform till all is done.

The Holy Spirit give you pow'r, The strength of prayer in ev'ry hour,
The wisdom, knowledge, fear of God, That lifts above his chast'ning rod.

May God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Preserve you blameless till in grace You stand before his holy face.



ORGANIST

David Koepsell

GREETERS

7:45 ~ Sue Repp

10:30 ~ Jim & Marcia Pflum