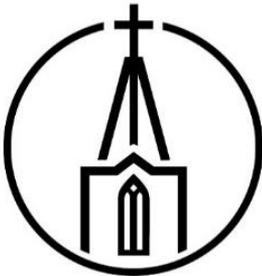


Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7, 2024
The 2nd Sunday of Easter

MY LORD and MY GOD



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

Welcome to all our visitors and to our members!

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE SERVICE

In the Bible, God commands His followers to join together and worship Him. When this is done, the message of Jesus Christ, our Savior, is to be the focus of our worship! ***Psalm 100:2-3*** *Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.* ***Colossians 3:16*** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

Our primary goal in worship is NOT to serve ourselves, but to serve and praise our Creator and Savior. However, as we praise and serve Him with our gifts, and hear Him speak to us through His word, we also are fed, uplifted, and strengthened in order that we may worship God in our daily lives all week long! ***I Corinthians 10:31*** ***So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.***

Very briefly, the vast majority of our worship services, including this one, follow the same general formula, although they may take different forms. We speak words and sing hymns praising our God for His blessings to us. We confess our sins, ask for forgiveness, and are assured of our God's forgiveness through faith. We grow in the Gospel by using His Word and sacraments. We confess our Christian faith and we pray to our gracious God!

MAY GOD BLESS OUR WORSHIP AS WE GATHER IN HIS NAME!

Our Worship Theme This Morning:

Imagine someone discovering the cure for cancer, yet keeping it private. Impossible! The need is too great; the news is too good. So it is with our Lord's resurrection from the dead. "We cannot help speaking of what we have seen and heard."

The Opening Dialogue

P: We begin our service of worship and praise in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

C: THIS IS OUR ONE TRUE GOD, OUR TRIUNE GOD WHO IS THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD!

P: We are truly blessed to have our triune God present with us this evening/morning, and we are blessed to be able to join in worshipping His holy name!

C: JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 18 VERSE 20 - "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Dear Lord, please accept our humble praise!

P: Great are the works of the Lord;

C: They are pondered by all who delight in them.

P: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

C: And his righteousness endures forever.

P: He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

C: The Lord is gracious and compassionate.

P: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

C: To him belongs eternal praise.

P: We give thanks to you, O God, for your name is near.

C: We will tell of your wonderful deeds.

P: We will not hide them from our children;

C: We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders he has done.

The First Hymn #225 “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

The Confession & Forgiveness Of Our Sins

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

ALL: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from Your presence forever. For the sake of my Savior Jesus Christ I pray: Lord have mercy on me and forgive my sins.

P: God gives each of us His personal promise - *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."* We have nothing to fear, since Jesus has redeemed us. By the same authority God gives to all Christians to forgive one another, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our sins are forgiven through His sacrifice and death! Let us now live our lives in keeping with that repentance. Let us pray.

ALL: We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Open my ears to eagerly listen to all that You tell me. Send Your Spirit to strengthen my faith, and motivate me to gladly live my life to Your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregational Hymn

#385 vss 1,2,5 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his and he is mine!

Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity,
Love that found me—wondrous thought!—
Found me when I sought him not.

Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
By your Spirit and your word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

A Scripture Lesson I John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes "that Jesus is the Son of God" shares in His victory. As a fruit of faith, those who are "born of God" are able to "obey his commands" and have "overcome the world."

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Hymn #439, vss 1&2 "Lord, Take My hand and Lead Me"

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

A Scripture Lesson John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to share peace with His disciples.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Public Declaration Of Our Saving Faith

The Second Article of The Apostles' Creed & Luther's explanation.

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 sitting at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Hymn #423 "Not in Anger, Mighty God"

The Sermon Acts 3:11-20

The Roundabout of Repentance

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom

you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Meditation Response

#272 “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The Thank-Offering

Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us! As members of St. Paul's, we now gather our thank-offerings which are used to support Gospel ministry locally, nationally and internationally. Scanning this QR code works too!



Prayers

The Lord's Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son who restored everlasting life. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (CW #474 melody)

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly
pow'r and might, Your glo - ry earth and heav - en In
blest is he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And in your
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De - liv - er
grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

Word of Institution *Spoken together!*

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.”*

May the peace of forgiveness we have through Jesus’ body and blood always be with us! Amen.

The Distribution

We’re trying to have groups of 4-6 people, so don’t be afraid to join the folks in front of you!

On page 156 in the front section of the hymnal there’s a short, concise “Q&A” format to help remind and prepare individuals to properly receive the Lord’s Supper.

The Communion Blessing

The Song of Simeon *melody of CW #93*



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to



as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en - light - en
ev - er three in one; For as in the be - gin - ning,

All gloom where Gen - tles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing
 Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Our Closing Prayer *Spoken together!*

Luther's Evening Prayer for Saturday:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer for Sunday:

I thank You my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Closing Hymn #331, vs 1 "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 Pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 Hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
 Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance:

Maundy Thurs. 132 Good Friday 153

Easter Sunday 278—**Total:563**

Sunday Bible Class –NA Wednesday Bible Class – 13

Sisters in Faith –NA Donnerstag -NA

St. Paul's General Fund – Mar. 23rd & 24th, 2024

Yearly Needed: \$479,536.00

YTD Need: \$353,733.58

YTD Offerings: \$ 320,830.53

YTD Need vs Offerings: \$-32,903.05

Last Week Received: \$12,607.44

Weekly Need: \$10,398.39

Difference: \$2,209.05+

Serving In the Lord's House

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Shannon Spreeman

Elder: John Kouba **Ushers:** Gary Johnson/Don Lau

Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

Video Tech: Darol Dusseau Lisa Lindemann

Power Point: Jett Leuthold - 4/6; Kayli Kuhl - 4/7

Serving Next Week April 13th/14th

Worship Leader: Pastor Hirsch **Organist:** Diane Herbolsheimer

Elder: Dave Nelson **Ushers:** Eric Nunnenkamp/Joe Myers

Radio Broadcasters: Joel & Kathy Wiedeman

Video Tech: Lisa Lindeman

Power Point: Athena Bretschneider - 4/13; Emma Hockabout - 4/14

Some Announcements

We could sure use some help in the continuing important effort to raise some funds for the school building project... young/old, male/female...the biggest asset for this is enthusiasm for the project, along with a bit of time. If this is something you're thinking about, talk to Mr. Markgraf, Pastor Hirsch or Scott Uecker. We understand that by just asking some questions does not mean you're committing!

- 1) For the last five years or so we've been setting **Confirmation Sunday** on a regular, set date...the first Sunday of May. There's a conflict with that this year so it has been moved up to April 21, two weeks from this weekend! That means there'll be a special schedule for that weekend. Saturday (4/20) will be the public review opportunity with the questions of basic Christian doctrine asked of the young Christians during this special service. This is a great opportunity for all of us to do some reviewing as well! Even though this is a Communion weekend, Communion will NOT be served on this Saturday evening. Confirmation of these young Christians will take place on Sunday, with Communion served. These are the young Christians...Micah Brown, Ellaina Finch, Henry Goeden, Skyler Hollum, Kayli Kuhl, Tristan Onate, Atley Paul.
- 2) Speaking of “**confirmation**,” next weekend (April 14) is another big day in that an **adult confirmation** class will be officially joining our Christian family here at St. Paul's! They are...Casey & Dacia Caskey (Quinn @ Little Lambs, Wren – 4 yrs, & Gavin – newborn); Micah & Stephanie Finch (Ellaina – 8th Grade, Isabel - 6th Gr., Clara – 5th Gr., & Daniel – 1st Gr., all at our school); Jeff & Misty White (Pierce @ Little Lambs); and Amanda Garder (engaged to Bryce Leuthold). **Please welcome and introduce yourselves this and next weekend!!**
- 3) A **new Sunday Bible Class series** continues this morning. We're looking at and comparing various religions and church bodies in our world and country...Hinduism... Mormonism... Methodist Church... Presbyterian Church etc. Please join us!! We try to get started at 10:15 AM in the church basement. This morning we'll take a brief look a Buddhism.
- 4) **Mrs. Becky Zemlicka** (husband is Jason, a software engineer, two children) **HAS ACCEPTED our call** to be the new head/teacher of our Little Lambs Pre-School. Becky is 40 years old, grew up in Hastings, NE, graduated from NELHS and MLC in New Ulm. Becky earned a Masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Currently she and her family are in Manhattan, KS.

Campaign Finance Update



Current Projected Cost:	\$3.9 million
Total pledges & gifts as of 4/3:	\$1,792,952
Amount to CEF Loan Down-Payment:	\$781,278
Expenses to-date:	\$110,XXX

ALL THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD!!

God-given workers for his harvest field

The number of vacancies for pastor, teacher, and staff minister positions continues to present a real challenge for congregations throughout our synod. At the direction of last summer's synod convention, a special task force has been formed to study the issue of enrollment at our synodical schools and bring recommendations regarding how we can encourage more young people to prepare for the public ministry.

Thankfully, we are approaching the month of May when some relief will be provided for the vacancy situation. The Conference of Presidents will be meeting as the synod's Assignment Committee to assign teacher and staff minister candidates from Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., and to assign pastoral candidates at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., to their first calls.

This year at MLC, 145 candidates will be available for assignment. Some of those will be teachers who will be assigned to their first calls; others who were assigned for one year last year will either be permanently assigned to the call in which they are now serving or be re-assigned to new locations. Thirty-seven of the candidates are restricted in where they can serve due to marriage or other circumstances. Many of these will be assigned in May; others will receive assignments in the weeks and months after call day.

At WLS, 27 men will be assigned as pastors. Most of those will serve in parishes; several will be assigned to one-year calls in one of our ministerial education schools as tutors. The Assignment Committee, with the input of the seminary, will also assign 40 men as vicars in congregations throughout our synod. Many of those will be assigned as “Vicars in Mission” to home mission congregations.

Assignment days at MLC and WLS are joyful days—joyful for the young men and women who learn where God will have them serve in the ministry and joyful for the members of the synod who see God keeping his promise to send workers into his harvest field. Keep giving thanks to God for these gifts to his church and keep praying that God will provide even more workers in the years to come.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Upcoming Events This Week:

Sunday, 4/7	<u>Worship Service w/ Holy Comm., 9:00 AM</u> <u>Bible Study w/ Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 AM</u> <u>No Sunday School this weekend</u>
Monday, 4/8	<u>Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM</u>
Wednesday, 4/10	<u>Bible Class Lindke, 10:00 AM</u> <u>Pub. School Cat., 2:15 PM</u> <u>Adult Choir, 7:00 PM</u>
Thursday, 4/11	<u>NELHS Play Day for School</u> <u>No Donnerstag (We'll restart on 4/18!)</u>
Friday, 4/12	<u>No School Teachers Conf.</u>
Saturday, 4/13	<u>Worship Service , 6:30 PM</u>
Sunday, 4/14	<u>Worship Service, 9:00 AM (K-4 sing)</u> <u>Bible Study w/ goodies, 10:15 AM</u> <u>Sunday School, 10:00 AM</u> <u>EPIC Bible Study, 3-4:00 PM</u>

Church Cleaning Teams

Weeks of April 7 & 14 - Team #4

Pat Jamison, Leonard Janovec, John & Jan Schlomer, JoAnn Winter

St. Paul's Contact Information

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WELS: www.wels.net

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This Is the Day the Lord Has Made



1 This is the day the Lord has made; He
 2 To - day he rose and left the dead, And
 3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To
 4 Bless - ed is Je - sus Christ, who came With
 5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The



calls the hours his own. Let heav'n re - jice; let
 Sa - tan's em - pire fell; To - day the saints his
 Da - vid's ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
 mes - sag - es of grace, Who came in God the
 Church on earth shall raise; The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.
 tri - umphs spread And all his won - ders tell.
 scend and bring Sal - va - tion from the throne.
 Fa - ther's name To save our sin - ful race.
 which he reigns, Shall give him no - bler praise.

Not in Anger, Mighty God



1 Not in an - ger, might - y God, Not in an - ger
 2 Show me now a Fa - ther's love And his ten - der
 3 My dear Sav - ior comes in grace; He will al - ways
 4 Fa - ther, hymns to you we raise With sin - cere thanks -



smite us. We must per - ish if your rod
 pa - tience. Heal my wound - ed soul; re - move
 hear me. I may come be - fore his face;
 giv - ing And the Son and Spir - it praise



Just - ly should re - quite us. We are naught;
 These too sore temp - ta - tions. I am weak;
 He is ev - er near me. He o'er - throws
 With re - pent - ant liv - ing. Ev - er - more



Sin has brought, Lord, your wrath up -
 Fa - ther, speak Now of peace and
 All my foes; Death and hell are
 We a - dore You whose love has



on us. Yet have mer - cy on us!
 glad - ness; Com - fort me in sad - ness.
 van - quished, In whose bonds I lan - guished.
 stirred us And whose pit - y heard us.