

March 17, 2024

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome Rev. Paul Lindhorst and Mr. Scott Wagner, who serve our Lord and church body here in the Southeastern Wisconsin District as Christian Giving Counselors on the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving Team. They share up-to-date information with God's people on their preferred WELS ministries and educate God's people on ways to maximize the gifts they want to share - whether with their families or with their chosen ministries. Jesus and his salvation are ever at the center of their visits and service. We encourage you to make use of their expertise as you seek to offer gifts to God's glory here at St. John and to other WELS ministries.

OPENING HYMN

"We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer"

Hymn 609

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Sung*)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, in your infinite love, you have entrusted to us the knowledge of your truth and the gifts of your goodness. Help us use them as good stewards, giving generously, praying urgently, and working diligently, that we may share in bringing others to your truth and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:1–16

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

“As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’ ”

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 50A



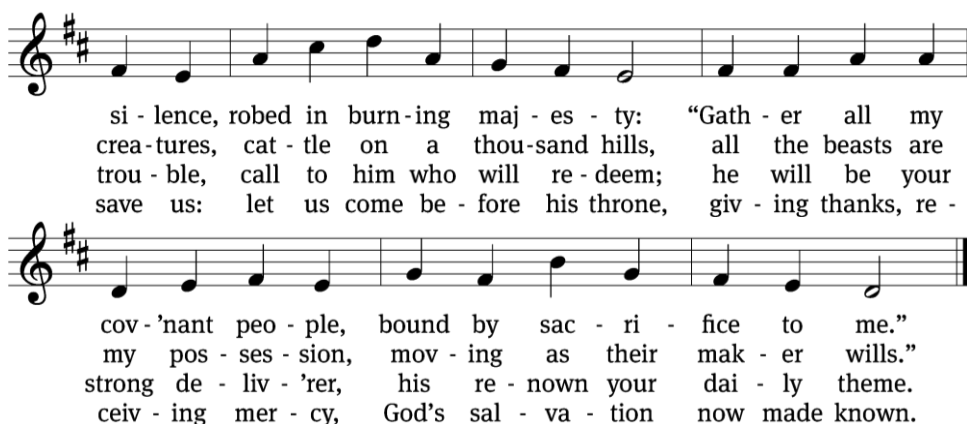
1 God the LORD, the King Al - might - y, calls the earth from
 2 “Hear me tes - ti - fy a - gainst you: lis - ten, Is - rael,
 3 God who owns the whole cre - a - tion needs no gift, no
 4 Lies in - crease and e - vil pros - pers; God is si - lent



east to west: shin - ing out from Zi - on’s splen - dor,
 as I speak. I do not re - quire your of - f’rings,
 food, no house; bring to him your heart’s thanks - giv - ing,
 while men say, “He has gone, let us for - get him,”



cit - y love - li - est and best, comes our God! He breaks the
 sac - ri - fice I do not seek. Moun - tain birds and mead - ow
 God Most High will hear your vows. Trust him in the day of
 think - ing he is false as they. But his word will judge or



si - lence, robed in burn - ing maj - es - ty: “Gath - er all my
 crea - tures, cat - tle on a thou - sand hills, all the beasts are
 trou - ble, call to him who will re - deem; he will be your
 save us: let us come be - fore his throne, giv - ing thanks, re -
 cov - 'nant peo - ple, bound by sac - ri - fice to me.”
 my pos - ses - sion, mov - ing as their mak - er wills.”
 strong de - liv - 'rer, his re - nown your dai - ly theme.
 ceiv - ing mer - cy, God's sal - va - tion now made known.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and everything you need will be given to you as well.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:19–21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Where Your Treasure Is”

Hymn 828

Refrain

Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be.
All that you possess will never set you free.
Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.
Where your treasure is, your heart shall be.

What do you gain from all your worry,
what you should eat or what to wear?
There is no peace in stress or hurry.
Do you not know that you are held within God’s care? *Refrain*

Look at the ravens high above you.
They do not work their whole life through,
and yet God feeds them and protects them.
So how much more will God protect and care for you? *Refrain*

Behold the lilies in their splendor. In grace and beauty are they dressed,
and yet so soon their bloom is faded.
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed? *Refrain*

O little flock, do not be frightened; yours is the kingdom of the Lord.
Give your possessions to the needy;
obtain a treasure in God's heaven safely stored. *Refrain*

SERMON

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

"Christian Stewardship in Macedonia as an Example for Us"

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 truly 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Lead us every day to be thankful for your gifts and content with what you have given. Today we pray that you would guide us to manage your blessings wisely for the good of your kingdom.

As we use your gifts to meet our needs, move us also to support the ministry of the gospel with our offerings.

Before your Son ascended to your throne, he called us to preach the good news to every creature. In grace you created the public ministry so that we may answer his call by sending others in our place. Impress on us the immense importance of the task you have given us to proclaim your Word to the world.

In our words and in our offerings, move us to be faithful witnesses of your grace.

Work in our hearts so that our gifts do more than support a cause or meet a need. Move us to give out of love for you, our King and Redeemer.

Lead us to bring our gifts first to honor you, the Giver of all things.

Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life since the work of the gospel continues every day. Forgive us for the sins of apathy and carelessness and for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.

Help us see the wisdom of planning our offerings as a regular routine of our faith.

Teach us determine our offerings in view of your blessings to us. The widow's coins were meager, but they were all she had. Move us to believe that to whom much is given, much is also expected.

Give us courage to bring gifts that reflect your gifts to us.

Teach us to give our offerings as a cheerful response of our faith in you and your Son. Spare us all feelings of obligation or resentment as we give. Help us to see our offerings as the vehicle that carries the gospel to the lost, and lead us to rejoice with the angels of heaven over every sinner who repents.

Help us to balance our duty to give with the joy of giving.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. Lead us again and again to thank you and then move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts. May our gifts and offerings bring souls here and far away to the gracious gift of Jesus and his love.

Lord, hear us and grant us this blessing. Amen.

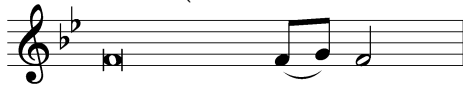
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



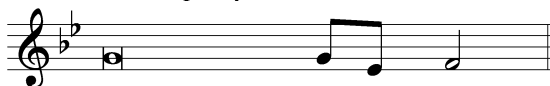
The Lord be with you.



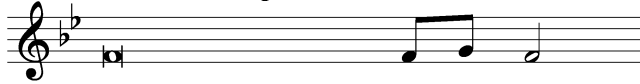
And al - so with you.



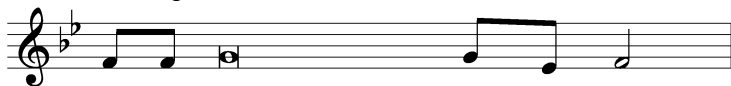
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

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 T 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 T 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.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION SONG - CHOIR

“Christ the True and Better Adam”

*Christ, the true and better Adam Son of God and Son of man
Who, when tempted in the garden Never yielded, never sinned
He, who makes the many righteous Brings us back to life again
Dying, He reversed the curse, then Rising, crushed the serpent's head*

*Christ, the true and better Isaac Humble son of sacrifice
Who would climb the fearful mountain There to offer up his life
Laid with faith upon the altar Father's joy and only son
There salvation was provided Oh, what full and boundless love*

*Amen! Amen! From beginning to end
Christ the story, His the glory Alleluia! Amen!*

*Christ, the true and better Moses Called to lead a people home
Standing bold to earthly powers God's great glory to be known
With his arms stretched wide to heaven See the waters part in two
See the veil is torn forever Cleansed with blood we pass now through*

*Amen! Amen! From beginning to end
Christ the story, His the glory Alleluia! Amen!*

*Christ, the true and better David Lowly shepherd, mighty king
He the champion in the battle Where, o death, is now thy sting?
In our place He bled and conquered Crown Him Lord of majesty
His shall be the throne forever We shall e'er His people be*

*Amen! Amen! From beginning to end
Christ the story, His the glory Alleluia! Amen!*

*Amen! Amen! From beginning to end
Christ the story, His the glory Alleluia! Amen!*

CLOSING PRAYER

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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

"His Mercy Is More"

Hymn 579

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum;
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam,
what Father so tender is calling us home!
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. *Refrain*

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;
his blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. *Refrain Repeats 3X*

OFFERING

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Palm Sunday Workshop Project List

Recruit some help and take on a project - on your schedule or on ours! If you have questions, we have some contact names below, or ask Pastor.

Lunch

Lunch Coordinator - Plan for pizza lunch at noonish. Set-up for lunch.

Inside Cleaning

- Fellowship Hall - Clean Tables and Chairs (Magic Eraser?)
- Microwave / Freezer corner - kitchen supplies boxed up, empty cardboard boxes recycled

Inside Muscle

- Fellowship Hall - Tables and Chairs off floor (after cleaning)
- Dr Office - Move Stuff (Contact Pastor)

Inside Fix

- Light bulbs in Fellowship Hall
- Toilet seats - check and tighten as needed
- Library / Conference Room - wiring / face plates in phone corner

Outside Easter Tomb - Contact Dan Freeck

- haul tomb pieces from gravel-lot garage
- spin cross poles from behind dumpsters to Tomb-Site
- assemble the tomb

Outside Yard Projects - Contact Todd Haefke

- Clean up flower beds for Easter
- Cut an edge along the north and south sides of the school so we can lay down gravel
- Lay down the gravel
- Rake up leaves
- Chip up brush and cut up bigger pieces for firewood
- If grass seed is not layed down, then finish it
- Police the southside easement
- Playgrounds - rake mulch to proper depth around playground equipment

The Joy of Mess Projects

- Clear School Roof drains
- Powerwash School Entry steps and Dr Office Overhang
- Clean Rain Gutters at Dr. Office (yellow ladder and tall ladder project)

Painting

- Paint (spray) pvc pipe - southeast corner of school

Inside Sit-Down Project

- Sort \$ records for retention/destruction - Contact Jim Thies