



“Making Friends for Eternity”

Est. 1859

ST PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dale, WI

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Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

TODAY’S WORSHIP - At the close of the Easter season, the family of God is assured of the Lord’s abiding care and presence with them. Suffering cannot deter faith; the abiding love of God continues to sustain his people.

ORDER OF WORSHIP: *Liturgy as presented on screen on Facebook service.*

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 8 page 67

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by Pastor*)



Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ GOD'S WORD +

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:1-14

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.

¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 8 page 67

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice in as much as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia. (John 14:18)

GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:1-11a (Sermon text)

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

⁶“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.”

THE MESSAGE TODAY: *Based on John 17: 1-11a*

“This Year’s Commencement Address”

1. The challenge
2. All in this together

After the Sermon “Confession of Faith”.

Confession of Faith—Apostles 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, THE LORDS PRAYER & BLESSING



Confirmation class will be held by means of a FaceTime video phone link at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

Food Pantry - Our next pantry date is **Sunday, June 14, 2020.**

Items needed by the food pantry are: **Cereal (we need on average between 150-175 boxes per month), cookies, crackers, boxed potatoes, canned fruits, Mac N Cheese and Hamburger helpers, toilet paper and paper towel, pancake mix and syrup, cream soups, pork & beans, and peanut butter.**

Thank you for the amazing gifts for the pantry that were received over the past couple of months! We have been overwhelmed by your generosity to the response of our needs to assist those using our pantry. Your love and compassion to help us during this difficult time have eased our concerns at this time because the need is always going to be there to assist others who need it the most. God certainly does provide for his people through your acts of Christian love and kindness. Every little thing you do to support the pantry is appreciated by all of us and those whom we serve. Thank you and God bless.

Cindy Wundrow
WELS AVFP Communicator
Home Phone 920-419-1946

P.S. Please feel free to bring any donations to church on Sundays prior to and including June 14.

Sunday May 31 – We will be re-opening the church for in person services at 8 AM on this Sunday. Confirmation of Maddie Danke and Olivia Peters will take place along with Holy Communion being offered to the new confirmands, their parents and members of the congregation. We will be practicing CDC guidelines for this service and for weeks to come. We will practice social distancing in our seating and greeting of each other and wearing of masks. Please no hand shaking or hugging. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer will be available to all attending. If you have a mask of your own, please feel free to wear it. Ushers will be assisting in seating all attending.

God's Word for This Week

Even as we come to the close of the Easter season, the victorious note of Easter still rings out loud and clear. It is the Sunday after the ascension of our Lord, thus there is a spirit of rejoicing over the reigning, glorious Christ. His abiding love continues to sustain us.

First Lesson – Acts 1:1-14

What persistent misunderstanding about the kingdom of God still troubled the disciples?

The disciples still had trouble realizing that the kingdom of God was not something earthly and visible.

Where is our Jerusalem, “our Judea and Samaria”?

Just as Jerusalem was the city in which the disciples were at this time, our Jerusalem would be the towns and cities in which we live. As we begin to share the Word with those around us, we will easily want to share it beyond that scope, to our “Judea and Samaria.” Through our generous offerings, we are able to send missionaries with the Word to others living not only in our country but also beyond our borders as we reach to the ends of the earth.

Why do you think the angel reminded the disciples that Jesus would return in glory just as they had seen him go?

Little would get done while they stared off into heaven. Jesus would be returning. In the meantime, there was much work to do while it was day.

Second Lesson – 1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11

Why is our sinful nature surprised when troubles enter our life?

Our sinful nature shares the world's view that short-term happiness is evidence of God's favor.

How does Peter encourage a long-range view of suffering?

The brief pain and persecution that we experience don't begin to compare with the long-term glory we will have with Christ. (See Romans 8:18.)

What is being described by the word “anxiety”?

In our complex world, we are pulled in every direction. Cares and concerns mount and build, thus we lose our true focus. God's invitation takes that burden off of us.

Gospel – John 17:1-11a

Why did Jesus pray, “Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you”?

In praying for the Father to glorify him, Jesus was praying for the successful outcome of his work of salvation. The glory would come with Jesus' victory over Satan on the cross. Through Jesus, the glory of the Father also shone brightly since all that the Son did was for the Father's glory.

What comfort do we find in our Savior's prayer?

As Jesus prays for the disciples' protection, the Lord shows once more, even in the midst of his own anguish before the cross, how dear his own are to him.