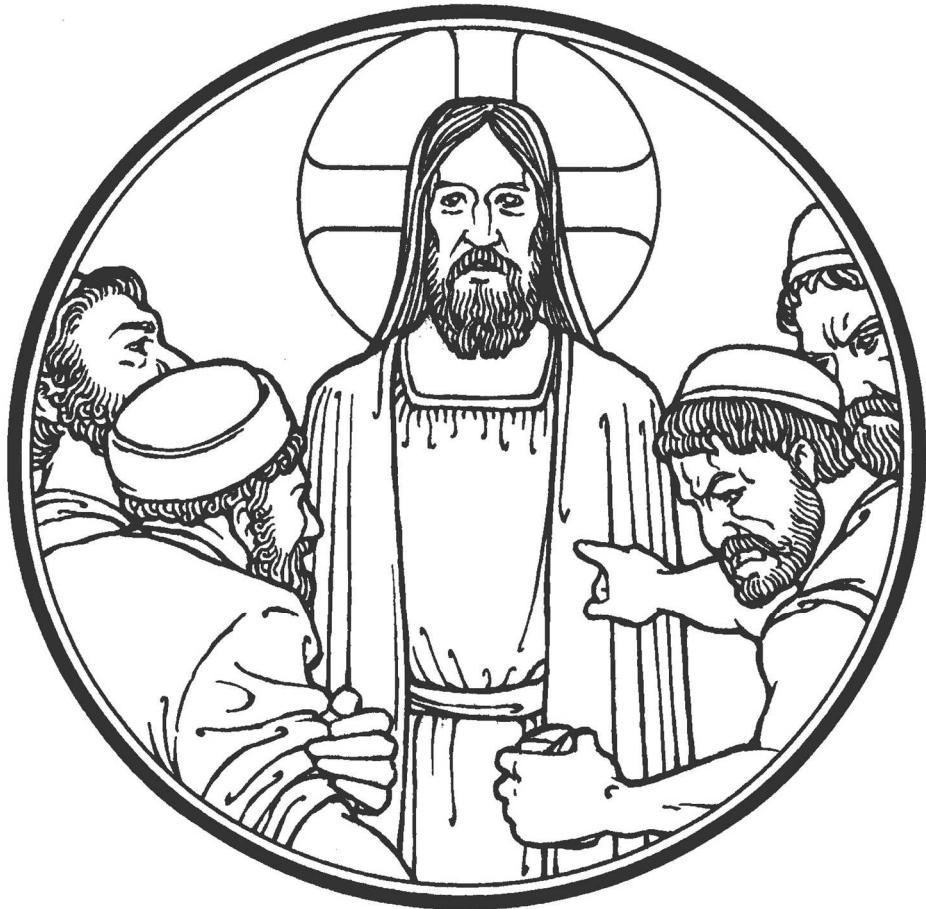
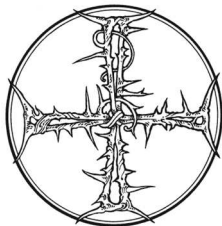


**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

O God, our
Everliving
Refuge! If
ever we faint
under any
appointed
cross and say,
“It is too hard
to bear,” may
we look to the
steps of the
Man of Sor-
rows toiling
on to Calvary,
and pass
freely into
Thy hand.
Own us as
Thy children
in time and
eternity.

Amen

~ James
Martineau,
1805-1900
A.D.



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Judica + March 17, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord’s Day. Jesus Christ was judged by all, and entered even into the judgment of God the Father, so that God may judge us righteous and acceptable for His sake. Today, that message takes on sharp expression as the Church enters into the last two weeks of Lent, called *Passiontide*. Our focus on His sufferings for us intensifies, for He is no ordinary man! He is God Himself, immersing Himself into our sin and pain to deliver us into His mercy and life.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season.
- The sponsor charts for 2024 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday: March 24

Holy Communion with Blessing of the Palms

Saturday: 5:15 PM

Sunday: 9 AM (Live, WSAU 550 AM, 99.9 FM)
11 AM

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Mar. 25-27)

Holy Communion, Spoken

Daily at 12:15 PM

Maundy Thursday: March 28

Holy Communion: 12:15 PM

Holy Communion with *Stripping of the Altar*: 6:30 PM

Good Friday: March 29

Three-Hour (Tre-Ore) Service: 12—3 PM (Live, WRIG 1390 AM)

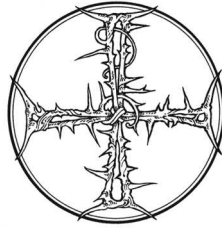
Nine 20-min Services + Come-and-Go As You Are Able

Holy Saturday: March 30

Easter Vigil: 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday: March 31 *(video recorded)*

Holy Communion: 9 AM (Live, WSAU 550 AM, 99.9 FM)
11 AM



PRELUDE

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

... Wayne L. Wold, Benjamin Kolodziej, Jacob B. Weber

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

... LSB #563

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

Who wouldn't learn to forgive their enemies when they see that, even on the cross, Christ prayed for those who persecuted Him? Don't you see that the weaknesses of Christ are your strength? His tears wash us and His weeping cleanses us.
~ Ambrose, 340-397 A.D., Exposition on the Christian Faith

*“Your light”
 and “your
 truth”: we
 have two
 names here
 but one single
 reality, for
 what else is
 God’s light, if
 not God’s
 truth? And
 what is God’s
 truth, if not
 God’s light?
 But both of
 these are the
 one Christ,
 who says, “I
 am the light
 of the world.
 Whoever be-
 lieves in me
 will not walk
 in darkness. I
 am the way,
 the truth, and
 the life.” He
 is light, and
 He is truth.
 May He
 come, then,
 and deliver
 us.
 ~ Augustine,
Exposition of
 the Psalms*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand.

INTROIT

L: Vindicate me, | O God,*
 and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

C: from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*
For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

L: Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;*
 let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!

**C: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding
 joy,***
and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in tur-
 moil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation
 | and my God.

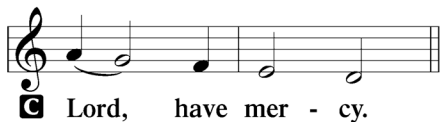
C: Vindicate me, | O God,*
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

L: from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

KYRIE

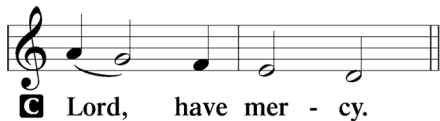
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



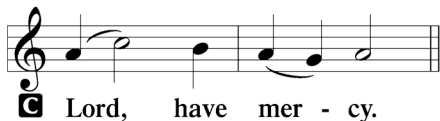
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



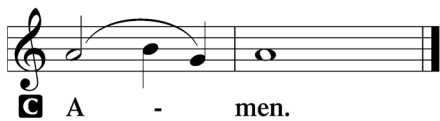
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



*That Isaac carries on himself "the wood for the burnt offering" is a figure, because Christ also "Himself carried His own cross," and yet to carry "the wood for the burnt offering" is the duty of a priest. Isaac therefore becomes victim and priest. But what is added also is related to this: "And they both went off together." For when Abraham carries the fire and the knife as if to sacrifice, Isaac does not go behind him but with him, that he might be shown to contribute equally.
~ Origen, d. 253 A.D.*

COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I

know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *Psalm 43*

L: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly | people,*
from the deceitful and unjust man
de- | liver me!

C: **For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you re- | jected me?***
**Why do I go about mourning
because of the oppression of the | enemy?**

L: Send out your light and your truth;
let them | lead me;*
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your | dwelling!

C: **Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O | God, my God.**

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation | and my God.

*The mountain spit out the tree, and the tree spit out the ram. In the ram that hung in the tree and had become the sacrifice in the place of Abraham's son, there might be depicted the day of Him who was to hang upon the wood like a ram and was to taste death for the sake of the whole world.
~ Ephrem the Syrian*

*Since [Jesus]
has taken
[his] blood
into his Fa-
ther's pres-
ence, it is
now most
holy and
powerful.
~ John Klei-
nig, He-
brews, 2017
A.D.*

EPISTLE Hebrews 9:11-15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

TRACT

L: "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth" –
let Israel now say –
"Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.
The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows."
The Lord is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God.

The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”
⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:
C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the

In Him the divine and human natures are personally united in such a way that in Christ the fullness of deity dwells bodily (Col. 2:9), and in this personal union they have such an exalted, intimate, and ineffable communion that even the angels marvel at it and find their delight and joy in looking into it, as St. Peter testifies (1 Pet. 1:12) . . .

communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“My Song is Love Unknown”
The Choir will sing Stanza 4.*

... LSB #430

SERMON

“Jesus Hid Himself”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“O God, Before Thee Now I Cry”

... Timothy Frank

Choir:

O God, before Thee now I cry
With songs of contrite pleading.
For Thou in grace wilt not deny
The pardon I am seeking.

Look on me through Thine own dear Son
Who for my sake salvation won,
My debts from me thus freeing

(Psalm 38)

O Lord, rebuke me not in wrath;
Thy hand has come upon me.
There is no soundness in my flesh,
My light has gone out from me.
But for Thee, Lord, do I now wait,
Protect me, now, from those whose hate
Has gone in might against me.

So shall Thy answer be assured;
Thou, O my God, hast heard me.
Through Christ, Thou hast for me secured
The right to come before Thee.
Thy faithful works I shall confess;
With hymns and praises,
I will bless Thy mercies never ceasing.

Please stand.

Congregation:

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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

... "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). This does not refer only to the merit that was once achieved on the cross. John is saying in this passage that in the work or matter of our justification not only the divine nature in Christ but also His blood actually cleanses us from all sins. Likewise, John 6:48-58 says that Christ's flesh is a life-giving food. ~ Lutheran Confessions, 1580 A.D.

In Communion, His blood speaks a better word to us than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24). Jesus' blood does not cry out for justice and revenge but for pardon and justification. It contradicts Satan when he condemns us for sinning against God and others for sinning against us; it covers and protects us with Christ's own righteousness and holiness . . .



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.

C: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.




And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.

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



It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

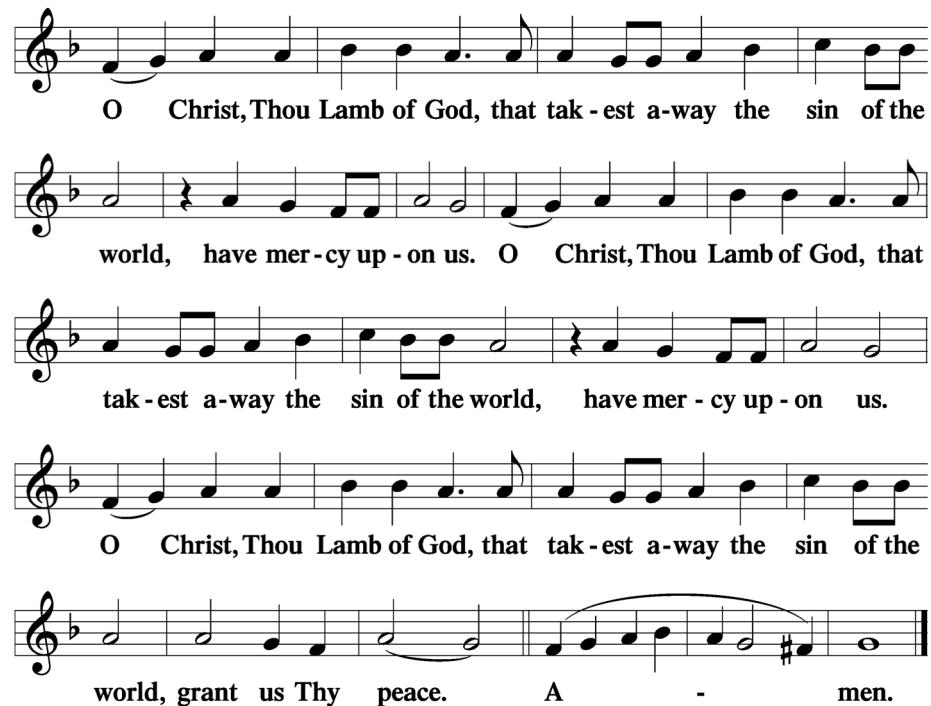
... By our faithful reception and reliance on His blood in Holy Communion, we stand under the protection of Christ, just as the Israelites were kept safe from the angel of death in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:21-27; Hebrews 11:28). Thus we overcome the evil one by the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God (Revelation 12:11)."
— John W. Kleinig, Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today

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

ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” ... LSB #622
“When I Survey” ... John E. Wilson
“Not All the Blood of Beasts” ... LSB #431

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*Do not hurry
by the cross on
your way to
Easter joy, for
we know the
risen Lord on-
ly through
Christ and
him crucified.
~ Richard
John Neu-
haus, Death
on a Friday
Afternoon,
2001 A. D.*

**A Prayer
As You Go**
O God, holy
and eternal,
you permit
us to enter
into the fel-
lowship of
that holy
suffering by
which your
dear Son,
our Savior,
conquered
sin and
death.
Grant that
we may cele-
brate the re-
mem-
brance of his
passion with
true devo-
tion, accept
the cross as
his disciples,
and thus
fulfill your
holy will;
through Je-
sus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Toccata in E Minor"

... Johann Pachelbel

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

- Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
(*Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am*)
Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe
Violins: Trisha Mauer, Mary Premeau
Choir: Janean Andrus, Sarah Gjerde, Vicky Radunz,
Carol Rich, Judie Urbanek
Radio: Paul Beilke
Lector: Jackie Bushar
Acolyte: Noah Harter
Communion: The Rev. Ted Gulhaugen, Steve Zeinemann
Elder: Julie Fernstaedt
Ushers: Mark Gehrke, Shelley Gehrke, Marlene Kroening,
Steve Kroening
Altar Guild: Janet Dettmering

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Con-
gregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)**