



## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

124 Maple Street North, Box 38  
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

**Worship: 6:30 & 9:00 am**

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### Church Staff:

Rev. Eric Nelson, Pastor, Ellen Schulteis, DCE, Amanda Streufert, Admin. Assistant

**March 31, 2024**

**Easter Sunday**

### **PRELUDE MUSIC/CHURCH BELLS**

### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

### **INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen**

### **EASTER MESSAGE 1 Peter 1:3-5**

P: Praise be to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**C: In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

P: and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you.

**C: who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.**

P: Christ has risen!

**C: He has risen indeed!**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #457: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Women and Girls

Stanza 3: Men and Boys

Stanza 4: All

*Text and music: Public domain*

1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day. Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3. But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation has procured;  
Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's king Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4. Sing we to God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Alleluia!

**PSALM 118:1-2, 15-24**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

**C: His love endures forever.**

P: Let Israel say:

**C: "His love endures forever."**

P: Let the house of Aaron say:

**C: "His love endures forever."**

P: Let those who fear the Lord say:

**C: "His Love endures forever."**

P: This is the day the Lord has made,

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Men: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:**

**Women: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"**

**Men: The Lord's right hand is lifted high;**

**Women: The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!**

**Men: I will not die but live,**

**Women: and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

**Men: The Lord has chastened me severely,**

**Women: But He has not given me over to death.**

**Men: Open for me the gates of righteousness;**

**Women: I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

P: This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

**C: I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation.**

P: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.

**C: The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE #486: "If Christ Had Not Been Raised"** *Text copyright 1981 Jubilate Humns Ltd.; admi. Hope Publishing co.; Music copyright 2203 Philip Magness; used by permission CCLI #643019*

1. If Christ had not been raised from death Our faith would be in vain,

Our preaching but a waste of breath, Our sin and guilt remain.

But now the Lord is ris'n indeed; He rules in earth and heav'n:

His Gospel meets a world of need-- In Christ we are forgiv'n.

2. If Christ still lay within the tomb Then death would be the end,

And we should face our final doom With neither guide nor friend.

But now the Saviour is raised up, So when a Christian dies

We mourn, yet look to God in hope-- In Christ the saints arise!

3. If Christ had not been truly raised His church would live a lie;

His name should never more be praised, His words deserve to die.

But now our great Redeemer lives; Through Him we are restored;

His word endures, His church revives In Christ, our risen Lord.

**COLLECT**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray,

**All: Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**.....Isaiah 25:6-9

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains"

**EPISTLE READING**.....1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**ALLELUIA HYMN** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

**GOSPEL READING**.....Mark 16:1-8

P: Christ has risen!

**C: He is risen indeed!**

**HYMN #480: "He's Risen, He's Risen"**

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: All (with minor key accompaniment)

Stanza 3: Men and boys

Stanza 4: Women and girls

Stanza 5: All

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1. He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

2. The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

3. But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;  
He lives, yes, He lives, and will never-more die.

4. O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;

Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

5. Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:  
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

**SERMON:** “Changes” (*Mark 16:1-6*)

**HYMN #649:** “Blest Be the Ties That Binds”

*Text and music: Public domain*

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.
4. When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

**APOSTLE’S CREED** (*inside back cover of Lutheran Service Book*)

**OFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*Inside back cover of Lutheran Service Book*)

**BENEDICTION**

P: God has loved us lavishly in the person and in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

**C: His grace be upon us.**

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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Christ has risen!

**C: He has risen indeed!**

**HYMN #922:** “Go My Children, with My Blessing” (*Stanzas 1 and 4*)

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1. Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.  
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing- You are My own.

4. I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

**HYMN #477: “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”**

*Text and music, stanza 1 and 3: public domain; stanza 2 Copyright 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd; admin Hope Publishing Co.  
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1. Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled-  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

2. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat;  
See the ancient pow’rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

3. Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE**

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**Prayer Concerns**

+ Brielle Nicole Birkholz  
+ Les Parpart  
+ Ed Mlynar  
+ Dave Wroge  
+ Travelers

**Attendance Last Week**

Worship: 221

**Memory Verse:**

**Isaiah 53:6** “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*”

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. THANK YOU** to those that provided special music for today’s services:  
Vocalists: Josh Hecksel, Alex Nelson, Chris Nelson; Instrumentalists: Flute-Jane Holasek, Kalley Christen, Amelia Meyer; Clarinet- Andrew Ruwersma; Alto Saxophone-Ellie Schulties, Kiley Mallak; Trumpet- Briele Christen, Zach Nelson; Trombone-Miranda Mallak, Zach Jackson; Handbells-Evelyn Dial, Carol Wolter,

Jennifer Ruwersma, Linda Mensing, Ellie Schulteis, Alex Nelson, Chris Nelson.

**2. CONGRATULATIONS** to Brielle Nicole Birkholz, daughter of Andrew and Cheryl Birkholz, who was baptized Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**3. THANK YOU**-Katie and I would like to thank everyone for the warm reception and for your gifts and prayers. If you find yourself in western Michigan, stop by and see me at St. James Lutheran Church in Montague (8945 Stebbins Street). The church is not far from the "World's Largest Working Weathervane."  
-Pastor Nelson

**4. THANK YOU** from the Stewardship Committee to Randy and Bonnie Rehmann, Bumps Catering, Britty Cakes, Mary Otto, Holasek Flower Power Greenhouse, the church elders and council members, and all helpers not named individually but who stepped in to help in any way with the Farewell Lunch for Pastor Nelson and his family. We appreciate your hard work. Many hands make light work!

**5. MANY THANKS** to all the Council boards that served the delicious Lenten Wednesday Suppers this season! They were certainly enjoyed very much by everyone who attended.

**6. DARTBALL NEWS**- The dartball team closed out the regular season with three competitive games vs St. Marks New Germany. A strong first inning carried St. Paul's to victory in game #3 of the evening, ending our season with a win! Timely home runs by Gerald Ide and Brett Schmidt (team home run leader!) helped carry us to victory. Batting average leaders for the team are: Craig Jackson .404, Gary Loontjer .391, Pastor Nelson .307 and Alex Nelson .305. League tourney is at CCLS in Watertown on Sunday, April 7. Pastor Nelson was awarded the team MVP award for 2023/2024! Ask to see his trophy!

**7. ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**- Our next Adopt-a-Highway Ditch clean-up will take place on Sunday, April 7th. Our back-up date will be Sunday, April 14th. EVERYONE 12 and older is welcome to help with this service project. We will meet at church at Noon that day to watch the safety video, then drive out to our clean-up site. There is a permission slip that needs to be filled out if volunteers are between 12 and 17. These will be available for you that day. Per MN Department of Transportation rules, children under 12 are not allowed to help with ditch clean-up.

**8. PHOTO BOOK**- A church copy of the photo memory book given to Pastor Nelson and family at the farewell reception is available for you to view on the desk in the upper narthex.

**9. LWML** will meet on Monday, April 1st at 7:00 pm. April Lee will lead devotions. Donations will support a seminary student and the Concordia food bank/coop. All women of the congregation are invited to join us.

**10. SCHEDULE**- For April 7<sup>th</sup>~ Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service-Kent Landin, Steven Dietel,

Larry Roth; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Gregg Machemehl, Chris Schultz, Neil Hecksel, Nick Rasset; Acolytes-1<sup>st</sup> Service: L. Brueggemeier, E. Dressler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: B. Rasset, S. Taylor; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Shadd & Julie Dial; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Brett & Darlene Schmidt; Scripture Reader: Evelyn Dial; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

## YOUTH

**11. EGG HUNT** All kids are invited to join in an Easter Egg Hunt TODAY Easter Sunday immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service. There will be an area for preschool and under, and a separate one for bigger kids. Then trade in your eggs for a bag of Easter treats!

**12. PAINT AND LEMONADE NIGHT:** We are excited to invite students from grades 6-12 to a painting night hosted by artist Ashley Clemensen on Sunday, April 21st from 6:30-7:30 PM ! Ashley will guide you through a Bible-themed canvas painting. All levels of artistic ability are welcome! Parents may also join either to paint or as helpers. Please email Ellie or sign up on the youth bulletin board by Wednesday, April 17 so we have supplies for everyone.

### *Calendar of Events*

<b>Sun. March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6:30 a.m.</b> 7:30 a.m. <b>9:00 a.m.</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE</b> Easter Breakfast (until 8:45 a.m.) <b>EASTER SERVICE</b> Kids Easter Egg Hunt
Mon. April 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 p.m.	LWML Meeting
Wed. April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Release Time
Thurs. April 4 <sup>th</sup>		Release Time Classes
<b>Sun. April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> 9:15 a.m. <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Noon 12:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Dartball at Watertown ACT Bible Study