

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Wausau, Wisconsin

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

GATHERING

** Please rise in body or spirit where indicated.
Text in **bold type** is to be spoken or sung in unison*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

God Is Here!

Jacob B. Weber

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight, and on him we build our lives.

**We are God's people, and we proclaim God's mighty acts,
for we have been called out of darkness and into the light.**

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people;
once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of all journeys, the road we travel is stony, and often we struggle to hold fast to hope. But in you, we find new courage, new purpose, and new life. By your grace, teach us to live as your Easter people, with mercy, compassion, and justice.

Guide us with your light, that in your all-sufficient presence, we might raise our voices in endless praise. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

God Is Here!

409

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;

here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus taught us mercy by praying for the forgiveness of those who killed him. This miraculous grace assures us that no matter what we have done, no matter the words we have left unsaid, we can come to Christ with our honest confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us.
Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life.

Please continue in silent reflection and your personal prayer of confession.

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn of Promise

250, v. 2

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him, Jesus answers us even in our unbelief.

We are God's own people. Thanks be to God.

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

240, refrain, v. 1

**(Refrain) Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

(Verse) Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of Creation. (repeat refrain)

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, OT p. 505

¹In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
²Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

ANTHEM

Gracious Spirit, Dwell in Me

K. Lee Scott

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:1-14, NT p. 108

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.”^[c] ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know^[d] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”
⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe^[e] because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me^[f] for anything, I will do it.

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

God of Our Lives

686

1 God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
thy hand we see.

With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand.

With us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.

Be thou our guide.

With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

3 God of the coming years, through paths unknown
we follow thee.

When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.

Our refuge be.

Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer)... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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

(prayer continues) ... Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

(prayer continues)

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

Friends, the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation!

You may consume the elements at this time.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

You are invited to use the time of offering to reflect on how you show your gratitude to God, whether through acts of service or through sharing of resources. Offering plates are available at the doors to leave a gift before or immediately after the service, or you may give online at www.firstpreswausau.org or through your Realm login.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Doxology

606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

*HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World

79

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. (Refrain)

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. (Refrain)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Procession II

Charles W. Ore

Following worship, all are invited to the Parlor for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Thank you to those who helped us with worship today:

Rev. Rachel A. Wann, senior pastor

Rev. Joy Nelson-Jeffers, pastoral associate

Betty Jo Klingberg, liturgist

Irene Beethe, guest organist/pianist

Chancel Choir, special music

Buzz Schranz, sound and video

Schranz Team, hospitality

Steve Martinson, doorkeeper

Mary Anderson, bulletin assembly

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