

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Wausau, Wisconsin

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 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

Cello Suite No. 1

J.S.Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord hears us when we cry out.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord showers us with blessings.

Praise the Lord!

Let us lift up the name of Lord for all to hear!

Praise the Lord!

Let us sing of God's endless grace and compassion!

Let us worship God!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of wonder, you appeared to Abraham as three persons; you reveal your fullness in your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit fills your people with hope through the peacemaking cross of Jesus. Gather us as Christ's faithful disciples and empower us with his good news, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised

485

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

The mystery of God brings the promise of life, but we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome death.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son, reveals that nothing is impossible with God. Let us confess our sin and receive new life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit. O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

286, v. 2

**Breathe on me, Breath of God; until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Hear the good news of God's love: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

437

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of redemption, summon us to Sarah's joy, Abraham's wonder, and Paul's confident hope through the word and work of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 116:1-10, 16-17, OT p. 564

¹ I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications. ² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. ⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord, "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

⁵ Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is merciful. ⁶ The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

⁹ I walk before the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Swan

Camille Saint-Saens

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 18:1-15, OT p. 14

¹⁸ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" ¹³ The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

To Abraham and Sarah

51

1 To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

2 From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written by God this saving word,
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

3 We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word,
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from *Confession of 1967*, 9.32-33

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All we have, we have from God, the one who made each of us with unique gifts that together make the body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we reach up in thanksgiving, and we reach out in service, sharing our time, talents, and treasures, so that God's realm may come here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

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

Spirit, Open My Heart

692, refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love, may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. In the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

*HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

837

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* arr, A.K.Organ

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
Katherine Wright, liturgist
Susan Schaefer, guest organist/pianist
Robert Chamberlain, cello
Chuck Schlitz, minute for mission
Rick Builer, sound and video
Griswold Team, hospitality
Dave Aughenbaugh, doorkeeper
Mary Anderson, bulletin assembly

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