

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Wausau, Wisconsin

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 2025

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

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Arabeske

Robert Schumann

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come with willing hearts and eager minds.

Lead us in your truth, O God of our salvation!

We come in our weakness and wander.

Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation!

We come seeking the path of justice.

We are ready to follow, O God of our salvation!

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you call us to live out your justice and righteousness. Help us to walk in your footsteps, so that we never lose our way. Enable us to live and love in the way that you have taught us, so that we can act in grace, even with those who we consider our enemies. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*HYMN

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

305

1 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!

Refrain: In bold accord,
come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

2 Long years have come and gone,
and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision,
dream the dream! (Refrain)

3 Let courage be our friend;
let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify
the Crucified! (Refrain)

4 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er
the ages long! (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God who demands justice from us is the God who pours out mercy upon us.
Trusting in that gracious love, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mercy: We confess that we have failed to live as your beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things of this world, and we have neglected the inheritance of love you bestow upon your saints. We have pursued selfish aims in our daily business; we have harbored uncharitable thoughts toward our enemies and friends; we have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our selfish ways and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

469

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The triune God's unconditional love does not seek appearances or conditions,
but loves in such a way, that we are restored to health and to wholeness.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, as we receive your Word through your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to your justice, open our ears to your judgment, open our hearts to your love. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 25:1-10, p. 502

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
- ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:25-37, p. 71

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

What Is the World Like

771

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?

Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the 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

As a redeemed people, we live for giving thanks! We understand that everything we do and everything we have, comes from God, whose unconditional love lift us up each day. Let us continue our thanksgiving, with grateful hearts, by giving of what God has provided.

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 to God and to the church and/or through sharing of resources.

Offering plates are available at the doors to leave a gift before or after the service, or you may give online at www.firstpreswausau.org or through your Realm login.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Praise to God the Father

605

**Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you God: you are our soil, our food, our water, our sun, everything we need to grow. We offer these gifts to you, asking for your direction, as we work each day so that your kingdom of light becomes more and more of a reality in this world. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

***HYMN**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

700

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Scherzo in Bb

Franz Schubert

Following worship all are invited to the parlor for a time of refreshment.

Thank you to those who helped us with worship today:

Rev. Rachel A. Wann, senior pastor
Susan Schaefer, guest pianist
Cheryl Davis, liturgist
Chuck Schlitz, minute for mission
Rick Builer, sound and video
Rick Wicklund, doorkeeper
The Bethel Team, hospitality
Mary Anderson and Marcia Glashagel, bulletin assembly

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