



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Thursday, April 30, 2026**

**First English Lutheran Church
402 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448
715-842-5727**

<https://www.firstenglishlutheranwausau.org>

A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic
Minister of Music: Daniel Larson
Pianist: Hal Osborn
Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz**

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

If you are a visitor, please fill out the neon green Visitor Card and drop and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Worship Leader: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

Pianist: Hal Osborn Lector:

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Lord God, We Praise You

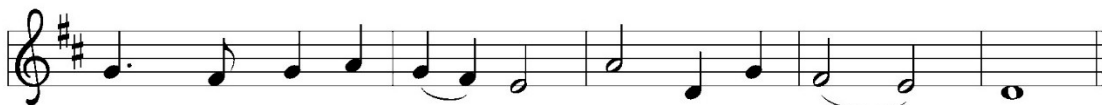
ELW #558



- 1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
- 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our
- 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, 540–604; tr. composite
Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

GREETING

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of
my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In 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? ³ And 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus 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’? ¹⁰ Do 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. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world,
let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to
proclaim the good news of new life to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor,
gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us,
a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



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 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION: Instrumental Interlude

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in
his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery
of Christ's resurrection

you send light to conquer darkness,
 water to give new life, and the bread
 of life to nourish your people.
 Send us forth as witnesses to your
 Son's resurrection, that we may show
 your glory to all the world, through
 Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
 and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
 ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

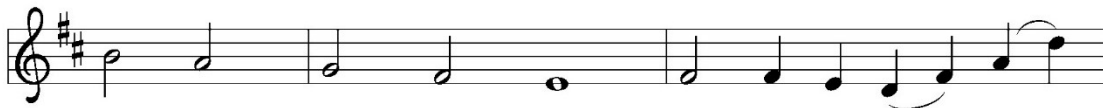
SENDING SONG

I Know that My Redeemer Lives
 (vv. 1-4, 7 & 8)

ELW #619



1	I	know	that	my	Re -	deem -	er	lives!	What	com -	fort
2	He	lives	tri -	um -	phant	from	the	grave;	he	lives	e -
3	He	lives	to	grant	me	rich	sup -	ply;	he	lives	to
4	He	lives	to	si -	lence	all	my	fears;	he	lives	to



this	sweet	sen -	tence	gives!	He	lives,	he	lives,	who
ter -	nal -	ly	to	save;	he	lives	ex -	alt -	ed,
guide	me	with	his	eye;	he	lives	to	com -	fort
wipe	a -	way	my	tears;	he	lives	to	calm	my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need. | 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there. |
| 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king! | 8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives! |

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thursday, April 23: 21

Sunday, April 26: 87 YouTube Views: 59

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: April 26: 4

PACKETS

of the 'special' envelopes for May and June are on the narthex table. These packets are for those who do not receive the regular envelope packet.

CHARITY CIRCLE MEMBERS...

There is a change in our meeting day and time. Beginning in May, our meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00am. Next meeting: May 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LAWN MOWING and LANDSCAPING

As the grass gets green and begins to grow following our April showers, we're looking for volunteers to help with mowing the lawn and watching over our landscaping. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thank you!

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Our quilters have reached out to those who were impacted by the tornado and flooding in the Ringle area by donating 8 children's quilts and 10 regular quilts to provide warmth and the sharing of God's love. May these gifts be a blessing to all who receive them and to our quilters for their gifts of love.

HELLO, FELC MEMBERS

We are looking for helpers to participate in our Spring-Cleaning Day. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 9am – 4pm with lunch provided between noon and 1pm. Our church has several tasks that need attention in the sanctuary and narthex. A sign-up sheet is located on the narthex table and two time slots are available: 9am-Noon and 1pm-4pm. Please consider donating some time to one or both time slots. If you have any questions regarding the event, please feel free to contact Shawn or Jenny Blaschka via phone (715-581-4909) or message through Realm. Thank you!

Joint Mother's & Father's Day Celebration



We are excited to announce a Joint Mothers & Father's Day Celebration! Because Father's Day often falls during summer vacation season, we will honor the women and men of the congregation



together on Sunday, May 10th. The children and youth of First English will serve as acolytes, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, and lectors. After worship, please join us in the fellowship hall for a potluck lunch and time to connect with you church family and friends.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

Parish Education Committee will provide Sloppy Joe sandwiches!

COMMITTEE NIGHT

Tuesday, May 5 – 6:30 p.m. We gather in the Fellowship Hall

CHARITY CIRCLE MEMBERS...

There is a change in our meeting day and time. Beginning next month, our meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00am. Next meeting: May 11

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Last Sunday's conversation was interesting and wide ranging. This Sunday we'll focus on our experiences with friends and relatives with very different ideas about politics, science, religion... Can we communicate respectfully with people when we are absolutely sure they are wrong? Can we learn from each other? Do we sometimes have to walk away? How do we deal with the wounds of damaged and broken relationships? Grab a beverage and a treat, and join us in the Fireside Room at 11:15.

ATTENTION: COMFORT GUILD MEMBERS

There will be a luncheon and informal meeting on June 1st at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to attend. Hope to see you all there!

TREASURE SALE NEWS...

Treasure Sale 2026 will be held June 11, 12, & 13.

Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. There is a sign on the door. Thank you so much for your donations!

The deadline for bring donations for the June Sale is Tuesday, May 26!

THE 2026 CHRISTMAS TREASURE SALE

will be held **November 6 and 7** in Fellowship Hall. You may bring your donations for this sale as well.

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John & Karen Otto, Chad Seivert, Lyle Jaegler, Linda Kittel, Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*), Rick (*friend of Dawn M. Kramer*), Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*), John (*family of Klapperich and Wynn*), Melinda (*sister of Matt Heyne*), Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*), Janet Alters (*Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*), Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fochs*)

Homebound / Assisted Lived: Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Barttelt (*Rennes*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes*)

Audrey Fellbaum

Delphine Saeger

Eleanor Thorpe

Daily Prayers Offered for: Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

PEEK AT THE WEEK of May 3-10, 2026

- Sunday, May 3:** 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Tuesday, May 5:** 9:00 a.m. Quilting Workday
11:00 a.m. Book Club
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Committee Night.
- Thursday, May 7:** 6:00 p.m. Worship
- Friday, May 8:** 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting
- Sunday, May 10:** Father's & Mother's Day Celebration
9:00 a.m. Worship with our assisting in the service
followed by a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Friday, May 8, 2026

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.