

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE,
GROWING IN SPIRIT



WELCOME!

A WORSHIP SERVICE HOSTED BY WAUSAU AREA ELCA CHURCHES
ROTHSCHILD PAVILION
1104 PARK STREET, ROTHSCHILD

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16th, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Praise Team Prelude

Choir Anthem

"Praise His Holy Name"

Welcome to Worship

Pr. Asher O'Callaghan

Welcome to our Joint Worship Service with eight ELCA churches in the greater Wausau area. We, as a group, are living into our belief that we are as ONE in the body of Christ worshipping with our neighbors!

As a united body of Christ, we are rooted in love and growing in the Spirit. And in that body of Christ, God empowers us to go out sharing the Good News of salvation and grace to the community around us. Now, we join in celebration praising and thanking God.

Please stand as you are able or as you are comfortable and join in singing.

Gathering Song

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Call to Worship

Psalm 65: 1-2, 9-13

(L = Leader / A = All)

L: ¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

A: ²To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.

L: ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly;

you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

A: ¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its
increase.**

L: ¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

A: ¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

L: ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem

“In This Very Room”

Please stand for the Prayer of Confession as you are able or as you are comfortable.

Prayer of Confession

Pr. Phyllis Smoot

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Greeting

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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit, help us receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Readings from the Bible

Pr. Karoline Schwantes

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8: 1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, God who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able or as you are comfortable.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Pr. Asher O'Callaghan

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And God told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as God sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Pr. Leslie O'Callaghan

Message

Pr. Asher O'Callaghan

Please join in singing.

Hymn of the Day

"All Are Welcome"

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Please stand as you are able or as you are comfortable as we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

Apostles Creed

Vicar Pat Kempf

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 the People Olivia Clermont, Bastion Decker, Elizabeth Lenoble, Lydia Lenoble,
Peter Schwantes, Addison Stumpner, Kyiah Walters

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

† Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Forgive those who have been unkind, disrespectful, rude, unaccepting and who cause disruptions in the lives of others. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this joint worship and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

† Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow. Protect the water of our world including the oceans, Lake Michigan, the Mississippi River, the Eau Claire River, the Wisconsin River and other bodies of water we enjoy from pollution. Protect all endangered plants, insects, animals and fish including polar bears, panda bears, black rhinos, giraffes, honeybees, the rainbow trout and the Blue Lake Mayfly. Instill in all people the need to be good stewards of our earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

† Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers, police officers, social workers and other advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians such as our governor, our President, and our state and local officials to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

† Heal those who are sick, O God including those suffering from cancer, mental illness, long COVID, heart disease and all other illnesses. Especially today heal those we name aloud or in our hearts. Guide nurses, doctors, health aides and others to care for those who suffer. Guide scientists who conduct lifesaving research, and counselors who care for victims of sexual abuse, human trafficking and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

† Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Plant seeds of love and mercy in their hearts. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany or welcome visitors to this worship service, and nurture our faith as we praise you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

† Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, who serve as examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Particularly we pray today for those who have died in war torn countries including Ukraine, those who have died in the pursuit of our liberty and those families and friends who have died and have joined you in eternal life including grandparents, siblings, cousins and others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for Sacrament: Communion

Pr. Asher O'Callaghan

Dialogue

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.

Preface and Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Words of Institution

It was in the night in which he was betrayed, that our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks. He 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith.

Amen.

Until your promised day, we pray to be led by the Spirit as one in the body of Christ praying

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 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

This is Christ's table, God's feast of love for you. Come, to receive a share of Christ's life given for you.

Please be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers for communion distribution.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Songs

Hymn

"One Bread, One Body"

REFRAIN

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free
woman or man, no more

(Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.

(Refrain)

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.

(Refrain)

Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

REFRAIN

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.

(Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.

(Refrain)

Hymn

"As the Grains of Wheat"

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all ends of the earth

be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love.

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all ends of the earth
be gathered into one in you.

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you.

Please stand as you are able or as you are comfortable.

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Let us pray,

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest
treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please remain standing as you are able or as you are comfortable and join in singing.

Closing Song

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face--
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Sending

Pr. Karoline Schwantes

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Choral Benediction

"We're a Fellowship of Believers"

The congregation is invited to join with the choir to sing the benediction portion of the anthem.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious, and be gracious;
the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Announcements and Table Prayer

Praise Team Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers in Paper. We invite you to pray with us! Write your prayer on one of the white or green slips of paper provided and add them to our paper chain prayers (with writing facing the inside). You may add prayers of thanksgiving, celebration, sadness, praise—whatever it is that you want to lift up to God.

There will also be a prayer station provided during the afternoon activity fair, with an opportunity for praying on your own or with another person.

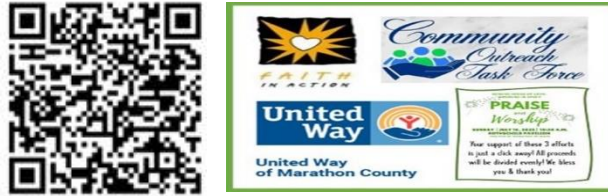
All are invited to join us for lunch. There are both gluten free and vegetarian sandwiches, which will be labeled, in addition to ham and turkey sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. Lunch will be self-serve and folks should help themselves and find a seat at a table inside or out.

There are many different activities you are invited to try out today. They are all guaranteed to be fun and a good way to conclude your day at our special worship service. Thank you for being a part of it.

You are invited to visit tables where a wide variety of special ministries of our congregations are highlighted. Participation in these special ministries is not limited to members of these congregations. Perhaps you will find a special ministry that appeals to you.

If you would like to make an offering, please leave it in one of the offering plates. Blank envelopes are available if needed. Offerings designated for a church, or in a regular church envelope, will be returned to their home congregation.

Undesignated offerings and envelopes noted as donations for the three special ministries will be divided between the United Way of Marathon County, Faith in Action of Marathon County, and the Marathon County Outreach Task Force. Scan the QR code below if you would like to make an online donation to the ministries.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the eight ELCA congregations from the Wausau area for hosting today's special service of praise and worship. Considerable planning and many hands have helped with the success of this shared experience.

Thank you...

- ◆ to the pastors and the musicians who help us praise God.
- ◆ to the volunteers helping with the service, food, activities, and fellowship.
- ◆ to the volunteers helping with setup and cleanup
- ◆ to Thrivent for sponsoring the chips and cookies part of the lunch
- ◆ to YOU for being with us and for helping to make this a very special service.

HOSTING CONGREGATIONS

WAUSAU
Good Shepherd
Immanuel
Pilgrim
Saint Andrew
St. Stephen

Bethlehem (Kronenwetter)
St. John (Mosinee)
Mt. Calvary (Rothschild)



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