

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod 335 West Prairie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982

Pastor Steven Tews

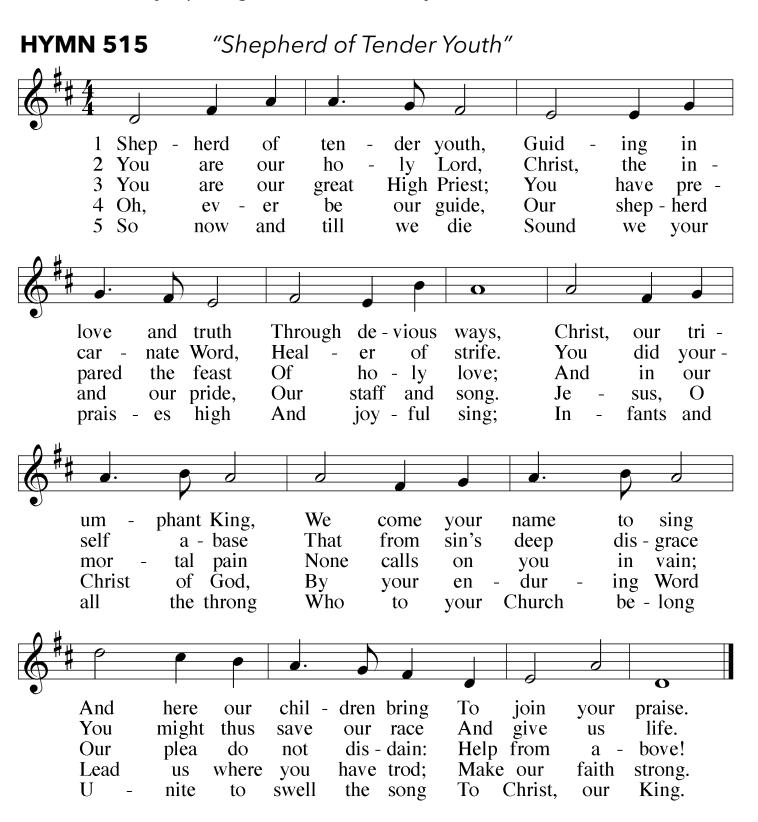
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Service of the Word

The love of God who lives in us leads to a life of obedience.



The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to do what Jesus asks.



Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170-c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821-90, alt.

Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Genesis 4:1-16

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they opened a Pandora's box on an unsuspecting world.

The man was intimate with Eve, his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten a man with the LORD." ² She also gave birth to Cain's brother Abel.



Abel tended sheep, but Cain worked the ground. ³ As time passed, one day Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil. ⁴ Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD looked favorably on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but he did not look favorably on Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and his face showed it.

⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you have that angry look on your face? ⁷ If you do good, will you not be lifted up? If you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It has a strong desire for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸ Cain said to Abel, his brother, "Let's go into the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel, his brother, and killed him.

⁹The LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?"

He said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ The LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the soil. ¹¹ Now you are cursed and sent away from the soil which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the soil, it will no longer give its strength to you. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great for me to bear. ¹⁴ Look, today you have driven me away from the soil. I will be hidden from your face, and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. And whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, "No! If anyone kills Cain, he will face sevenfold revenge." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that anyone who found him would not strike him down.

¹⁶ Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

PSALM 66

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.

He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.



SECOND LESSON 1 John 3:13-18

Love means obedience to God. It was love that led Jesus to obey his Father, obedient to death, even death on a cross for us. Now that same love empowers us to love our brother.

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have crossed over from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. 16 This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 Whoever

has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God's love remain in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia. (John 14:23)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND



GOSPEL John 14:15-21

We are children who will never be orphaned, but rather will be comforted, counseled, and kept forever. What is our response? Life lived as God intended—a life that treasures our Lord, his Word, and obedience to both!

¹⁵ "If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him."

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED



Flee the world which would de - ceive am - ple pure, us glo - ry con - form; Heav - en's soon will please us, sec - ond death. From our soul's de struc - tion, frees us. from the dead. Death and grave must soon re - lease us.



Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.

Tune: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN (87 87 877 877) Georg G. Boltze, 18th century, alt.

SERMON

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

During this time of not meeting together physically, you can mail your offering to the church address or call Pastor to drop it off at church.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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.

BE SEATED



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Tune: LITTLE FLOCK (66 76 6) Heinz W. Zimmermann, b. 1930. From *Five Hymns*. © 1973 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

STAND

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

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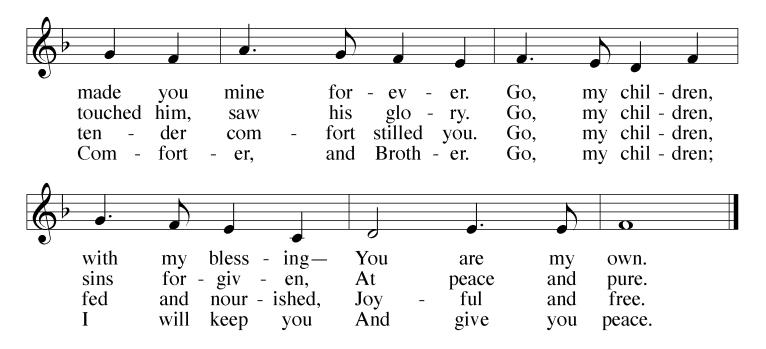
Sav -

ior,

Lord

CLOSING HYMN 332 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"





Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: AR HYD Y NOS (84 84 88 84) Welsh melody, 18th century.





Today we were supposed to celebrate our Lutheran Boy and Girl Pioneers ministry here at Peace.



This year, we welcomed 12 boys and girls, ages Kindergarten through 11th grade, to our ministry.

We meet twice a month, playing games, making crafts, doing service to our congregation, learning life and leadership skills, and nurturing Christian friendships. We are part of a national ministry, which has groups of Pioneers at WELS/ELS churches all over the US and in Canada.



Even though we had to cancel our last meetings of this year, we accomplished a lot! We took a trip to a corn maze this past fall, the Girl Pioneers hosted Advent by Candlelight in December, we cleaned the church kitchen in January, we held our annual Pine Car Derby in February, and had tons of fun together!

We will meet sometime this summer when we're able to hand out awards earned.

Thank you to our leaders, Kevin & Christine Bohn, Ahnsharee Klusmeyer, and Rebecca Bohn and to our Junior Leaders Emily Bohn and Kaliska Klusmeyer for all their work this year.

Thank you to our Pioneers for a super fun year:

Boy Pioneers:

Grant Klusmeyer, TJ Klusmeyer, Jonathan Kracker, Ian Proctor, Wade Proctor, Ben Sigourney, Samuel Tews, Jackson Wedell

Girl Pioneers:

Emily Bohn, Kali Klusmeyer, Anna Kracker, Mackenzie Sigourney **Thank you** to our wonderful congregation for supporting this vital ministry within our church!

If you know of any family who would benefit from Pioneers, please call Christine or Kevin Bohn (920-787-3856).

You do not have to be a member of Peace to join the Pioneers.



The Love of God Who Lives in Us Leads to a Life of Obedience

God's Word for Today

The love of God who lives in us leads to a life of obedience. Jesus' promise of another Counselor is a loaded one: the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to do what Jesus asks. This Sunday's lessons teach that love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands. Only Jesus' promises make that possible.

First Lesson (Genesis 4:1-16)

1. What do we learn about the obedience God wants from the actions of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel?

Second Lesson (1 John 3:13-18)

2. What kind of love does God call on us to give to those around us?

Gospel (John 14:15-21)

- 3. How can Jesus say that the Spirit "lives with you and will be in you"?
- 4. What comfort is ours when Jesus says, "Because I live, you also will live"?

Answers:

- 1. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, life as God intended had disappeared from this world. Expelled from the garden and guarded from the Tree of Life, man would know only inevitability of death. But to this dying world, God promised a Savior, born of woman, who would restore to man life as he had once lived. Cain showed that mere obedience does not please God, but only the obedience that flows from faith and love. Abel lived in the blessedness of forgiveness, and not even his brother's murderous actions could take away that true Life.
- 2. Love means obedience to God. It was love that led Jesus to obey his Father, obedient to death, even death on a cross for us. Now that same love empowers us to love our brother. Hatred and vengeance have their home east of Eden. But here, among the people of God, there is no room for hatred—only love. Christians are to be the antithesis of Cain: we lay down our lives for our brothers, not just in word, but in every daily deed. We do it because we now have that life once lost, but now regained by our living Savior. We have passed from death to life.
- 3. The Holy Spirit, together with the Father and the Son, was already at work in the hearts of the disciples bringing them to faith in Jesus. But there was also going to be a special outpouring of the Spirit on the disciples on Pentecost.
- 4. Because I live, you, too, will live! Jesus promises more than just a resurrection from the dead for his disciples. Note the tenses in verse 19: in the very face of his own death, Jesus did not promise that he would come back to life, but that he is alive in the soteriological sense. Verse 6 said, "I am the life." Jesus is life, that state of blessed holiness and perfect righteousness and communion with God. Man had lost that life in Adam's fall, and sin and death rushed into the vacuum left behind. The Son of God, the Life, came to bring it back. Because he is alive, we, too, will live in blessedness and holiness forever. We are children who will never be orphaned, but rather will be comforted, counseled, and kept forever.

During these unprecedented times,
please call the church office at 920-787-3856
or email at peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com
with concerns, questions, and prayer requests.
We may not be physically in the office every day, but we are
still here for each of you.

Visit our website at www.wautomapeacelutheran.org or visit our Facebook page for updates and other information.

Things are changing at a very rapid pace and we will do our best to keep everyone informed of any changes to our cancellations.

