



April 21, 2024

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**8:30 a.m.**



202 South Second Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-8294  
[www.ezekiellutheran.org](http://www.ezekiellutheran.org)

# Welcome to



We are pleased that you are worshipping with us today!

\*Please stand.

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<b>Prelude</b>	“Spirit of the Living God” “The Joy of the Lord” “The King of Glory”	Iverson Vale Jabusch
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## Welcome and Announcements

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!

**All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom’s land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!

**All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Pastor: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!  
All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

\*Opening Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!" ELW 369

**\*Apostolic Greeting**

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

All: And also with you.

**Hymn of Praise**

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### WORD

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

**Lesson:** 1 John 3:16-24

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

Reader: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**All: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

Reader: You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**All: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Reader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Children's Message**

Marci Norum

**Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**The Holy Gospel:** John 10:11-18 (page 103 in pew Bible)

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is proclaimed...)*

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Word of the Day**

“How We Know What Love Is”

Matthew Mitchell

**Hymn of the Day**

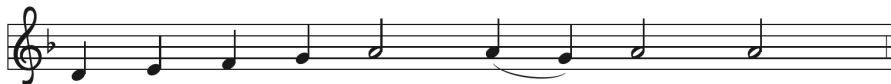
“You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd”



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
stripped of might up - on the cross,  
sit in pow - er at God's side.  
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

### \*Apostles' Creed

Pastor: With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

**All: 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 Church

Pastor: God of grace,

**All: hear our prayer.**

### Sharing the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Please share a sign of peace with each other.

*(People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and say:  
 "Peace be with you.")*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Offering

*We will be passing the offering plates or you may give online at:  
www.ezekiellutheran.org. Know that Ezekiel is most grateful for the gifts  
of support that you are able to give. May God bless you in your giving.*

### Offering Hymn

“Come to the Table”

ELW 481

### Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God...and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor: 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**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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**

Pastor: The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

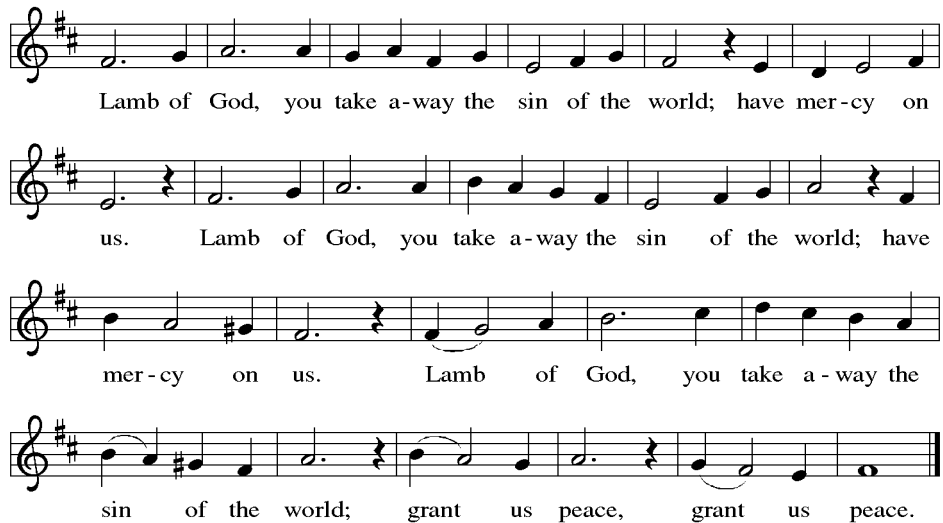
### **Communion Distribution**

*As Lutherans, we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord. All who desire to receive the gifts of grace, forgiveness, and new life are welcome to come to the Lord's table. You do not need to be Lutheran or a member of Ezekiel to receive these gifts from God. Children that have not received their First Communion are invited forward for a blessing. It is helpful to servers if they cross their arms as a clear sign. We will be receiving communion by bread and cup. Both red wine and white grape juice, at the center of the serving tray, are provided. Gluten-free is available. The ushers will direct you to the front to be served.*

“The body of Christ, given for you.” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”



## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

“Shepherd Me, O God”

ELW 780

## Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us  
with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your  
goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and  
friend.

All: Amen.

## Blessing

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Pastor: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

**Sending Hymn**

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 536

**Dismissal**

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude:**

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

Doane

**THIS WEEK AT EZEKIEL**

**April 21 - April 28**

**Sunday, April 21**

7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel

**8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**

9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club,  
Milestone Event

**10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 100

**Monday, April 22**

4:30 p.m. Prayer Team Meeting, Rm 190

**Tuesday, April 23**

12:00 p.m. Rotary Lunch, Rm 100

**Wednesday, April 24**

9:00 a.m. Mom’s & Dad’s Group, FH

10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Kuss), Rm 190

4:30 p.m. Homework Help, Rm 200

5:30 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. High School, Group, Rm 200

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

**Thursday, April 25**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study (Bjerstedt), Library

**Saturday, April 27**

8:00 a.m. Worship Band, Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 28**

7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel

**8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**

9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club

**10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship,  
Sanctuary**

3:00 p.m. “Just Sing” Concert, Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 100, 200

**WELCOME TO EZEKIEL!**

In worship and community, we seek to grow in love for God and for our neighbor. We trust that we are called and transformed to create a world of abundance.

**Are you visiting today?** We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to introduce yourself to those around you and fill out the red welcome pad.

**Hearing Devices** are located underneath the stairs in the back of the sanctuary.


**Children in worship...** We love the joyful noises that little ones make! Kids of all ages are invited to come up front for the Children’s Message. If your child needs a break or a creative outlet, check out the Prayground located along the southwest wall of our sanctuary. For older students, we have an Activity Corner located by the stairs in the back of the sanctuary where they can select a few items to take back to their pew. Children’s Bulletins are located in both areas.

**WE’RE HAPPY YOU’RE HERE!**

EZEKIEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Summer Blended  
Services*

BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 26  
SERVICE AT 9:30 AM  
COFFEE HOUR TO FOLLOW


**Just Sing**  
 Presented by  
**The Pierce County  
 Ecumenical Choir**


Ezekiel Lutheran Church  
 Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 PM  
 Refreshments following concert.  
 Free Will Offering  
*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to  
 local charities.*

**Word for the Day**

**Mon** - Psalm 80  
**Tues** - Acts 8:26-40  
**Wed** - Psalm 22:25-31  
**Thurs** - 1 John 4:7-21  
**Fri** - John 15:1-8


LET'S COME TOGETHER

# National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2

Theme: Faithfulness

"I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."

  
 Isaiah 25:1 (NIV)

The word "perfect" defines His faithfulness...there is nothing lacking. The Ezekiel Prayer Team encourages you to set aside some time to pray for our nation and leaders. Watch for suggestions on how to engage physically and deliberately in the act of prayer. Come to prayer, meet Jesus as you are, for Jesus brings His perfect faithfulness to engage with you.

### Prayers of Healing, Care, and Joy This Week

Please Pray for:

- John Henning, prayers for healing.
- Warren Leonard, prayers for healing from medical issues.
- Woody Fangmeir, prayers for healing.
- Jason Binger (Ken and Ruth Lee's son-in-law), prayers for healing.
- Sue Myers (John Henning's sister), prayers for healing.
- Ed Schramm, prayers for healing.
- All caregivers.

#### **Ezekiel**

- Father, as we gather together, make us aware that we are meeting not simply with one another, but with you. Let your presence be real to each of us. Hear our confessions of those things we have done and of those things which we have left undone. Hear our praise and thanksgivings for your blessings and unearned grace given to us. It is in the name of Jesus, your beloved son, that we pray. Amen.

#### **World**

- Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for people in the Middle East who have been impacted by conflict. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you have a prayer concern please submit your prayer request to the church office 715-425-8294 or [info@ezekiellutheran.org](mailto:info@ezekiellutheran.org). All prayers are confidential.

### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Pastor Steve Dow  
Speaker: Matthew Mitchell  
Musicians: Dick Seebach, Greg Carter  
Cantor: Dot Seebach  
Reader: Vicki Olson  
Sound: Jim Ashbach  
Recording Tech: Josh Ashbach  
ProPresenter: Ashbach Family  
Ushers: Jeff Bjork, Greg Carter, Tom Gunderson, Larry Larson  
Communion Servers: Curt Larson, Dee Larson, Sue Miller  
Altar Guild: Cathy Hjersjo, Nicky Thompson, Sandy Tauferner  
Coffee Hour: Barb Kuss, Rich Kuss, Amy Linton, Tyler Linton



Thank you, Ezekiel congregation, for your incredible support during our recent Relay for Life events. From your generosity at the Ash Wednesday chili dinner, the purchase of 72 butterflies/flowers and

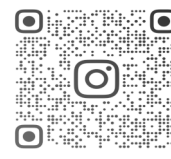
luminarias, over \$400 in contributions to the noisy offering, and gift card donations for the auction—your unwavering participation and dedication made a significant impact in the fight against cancer! Special thanks to those who volunteered their time to plan, attend, pop popcorn, and support Sandy Tauferner, Honorary Chair, at the luminaria ceremony. Together, we raised over \$9,000 for the American Cancer Society!! Your compassion and contributions are truly appreciated.

Jeanette Juetten, Relay for Life Team Captain

Ezekiel will no longer lend out tables and/or chairs. Thank you.



Ezekiel Lutheran Church  
General Fund  
<https://www.ezekiel.org>



EZEKIEL.YOUTH  
Ezekiel Youth Instagram  
Follow for updates and events.

*Portions of our service and today's hymns can be found in the Evangelical Worship (ELW) ©2006 Augsburg Fortress - License #15208-ELW.*

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