

5th Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

“St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School”

www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough

Principal: Jason Schapekahm

Welcome, Friend!

You Have Come To The Right Place!

Jesus Loves YOU!

WELCOME

Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future.

For more information regarding St. Philip’s Lutheran Church,

please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-254-6093 or 414-263-7614.

For information on our K4 – 8th grade Christian day school please contact

Mr. Schapekahm at 414-263-7614 or 414-659-4688.

Continuing Our Mission and Ministry

Our church still has ongoing ministry to conduct. We assume you will want to continue giving your offerings to the Lord. You may send your offerings in the mail (3012 N Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212). Online giving is also available from our website or click this link: <https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.

Worship Theme

“Jesus Will Raise Us From Death to Life”

“Order of Service”

Opening Hymn: Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus (CW 452)

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus, To His image, e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap with heavenly joy;
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with Thee; There, oh, share Thy joy with me!**

**Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to Thee There to live eternally.**

**Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since He's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, Thou art now our Head,
We are truly Thine own members; Where Thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to Thee, Also there eternally.**

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: 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.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)

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

Oh Taste and See (*sung*)

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.

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor & Congregation: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death, we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Romans 8:11-19

The close connection between the life of the believer and the life of Christ is emphasized by Paul. Our life in Christ brings both blessing and obligation: blessing in the status of sonship graciously established by the Spirit; obligation in living as befits those led by the Spirit as the sons of God.

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. ¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth

comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Psalm of the Day – Responsive Reading – Psalm 116 (selected verses)

Reader: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice,

Congregation: He heard my cry for mercy.

Reader: Because he turned his ear to me,

Congregation: I will call on him as long as I live.

Reader: The Lord is gracious and righteous,

Congregation: When I was in great need, he saved me.

Reader: For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

Congregation: My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Reader: How can I repay the Lord?

Congregation: For all his goodness to me

Reader: I will lift up the cup of salvation

Congregation: And call on the name of the Lord.

Reader and Congregation:

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.

Gospel Lesson: John 11:17-27, 38-45

Just prior to his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus raises Lazarus to life. To the consternation of the Pharisees, the people see the miracle and put their hope in Jesus.

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said

Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!



Sermon Hymn: In Christ Alone (CWS 752)

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Weekly Devotion: Ezekiel 37:1-2, 4-7, 10

“There is HOPE for a bunch of Dry Bones”

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry.... ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying,...they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Our St. Philip’s Family of Believers. Grace and peace to you from our gracious and merciful God, who is revealing His love for us, even in the midst of this pandemic. I am convinced of that. At this time of unprecedented global stress and hopelessness, at this time of uncertainty and fear, at this time when many of the citizens of our country and world are experiencing some degree of an absence of “normality”, we need HOPE. We need something that we can trust in, something secure, something that we know will never cease or be taken away from us. The “great news” for all of us is that we have such a “HOPE”. His name is Jesus Christ.

In the midst of this season of “pandemic”, we are reminded that we are also in the season of Lent. During this season of the church year, we travel in spirit with our Lord, Jesus Christ, as He makes His way to Jerusalem to be rejected, beaten and crucified. Why did He do that? He did that so that you and I might have HOPE. He did that so that you and I might have something secure to trust in, something that we know will never cease or be taken away from us. He did that so that you and I might have forgiveness and salvation.

This is the message that God had given to His people in the Old Testament through the prophet Ezekiel. The Israelites were experiencing their own version of a “pandemic”. In the 6th century BC, the people of Judea had been exiled as slaves to the country of Babylon. The exile was more than just a crisis of physical suffering. It also brought about a crisis of faith and identity. Their city with its temple, its people, and the Davidic monarchy had been destroyed. The people wondered if the Lord was truly lord and truly faithful. They cried out in hopelessness, Ezekiel 37:11b, ***“our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.”*** It is in the midst of this hopelessness that God, working through the prophet Ezekiel, announces a very graphic message of HOPE: ***“4 Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.” 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying,...they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.”***

Brothers and Sisters, my St. Philip’s Family, do you see it? Do you see that, in this very graphic vision, the HOPE that God gave to the Israelites in the 6th century BC, is the same HOPE that He gives to us? We may feel like a bunch of “dried up bones” as we navigate our way through this pandemic, but God through His healing Word has the cure we need. At the end of this season of Lent we can see the empty tomb. We can hear the angel say, “He is not here! He has risen!” We can be certain that by

grace, through faith in our resurrected Savior, our “dry bones” now have life. That’s our certain HOPE. Amen.

The 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.

Our Offering to the Lord

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound (CW 379)

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found T’was blind but now I see

T’was Grace that taught my heart to fear And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares We have already come.

T’was grace that brought us safe thus far And grace will lead us home,

"Our Mission Statement"

(Our Purpose as a Church)

Our mission here at St. Philip’s Lutheran is outlined for us in

Matthew 28:19: ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.’ Making disciples includes proclaiming God’s Word in its truth and purity, strengthening the faith of those under our care, and reaching out to the people of our community, (including our unchurched friends and relatives). Let us pray for and work together toward this goal.

[God feeds his flock in a time of crisis](#)

2020/03/24/in [Together](#)

After earlier placing restrictions on the size of public gatherings, today Wisconsin governor Tony Evers issued an even more restrictive “Safer at Home” directive. The directive effectively closes all Wisconsin businesses and entities other than those that are deemed essential. Other states have issued, or likely will issue, similar directives.

Already after the first restrictions were imposed, many WELS congregations found ways to continue to serve their members with God’s Word and with new and different types of worship formats. I am thankful at the way so many of our congregations have put these things into place with only brief notice, and pray they will be able to continue in those efforts.

On Sunday, my wife and I worshiped via an online worship service provided by my home congregation. The service that was broadcast was a complete service with the normal liturgy, hymns, and prayers. Before we began, we wondered just how “worshipful” such a service would be. But by the time the service was over, we agreed that it was one of the most meaningful and moving worship experiences we had ever had.

First, we were reminded that the power of God’s Word and the comfort of the gospel is not in any way diminished by the way it is delivered. We heard law and gospel. We were assured of our forgiveness in Christ. We were directed as always to the cross and empty tomb. Our faith was nourished and our trust in God’s unchanging promises was strengthened.

Second, I couldn’t help but think that being prevented from gathering physically with other believers helped to renew our appreciation for corporate worship, where believers gather not only to be strengthened by the means of grace, but also to provide encouragement and love to each other. Perhaps God will use this experience to lead our WELS members to never take public worship for granted again. Perhaps he also will use this entire crisis as a time to draw many in our nation to see the value of faith and the Word of God.

Finally, we were not alone in this experience. Congregations around the synod moved quickly to see to it that the Word of God would not be silenced. Worship services were streamed live in many places. Devotions and sermons were posted online. Materials and words of comfort and instruction were sent via e-mail. Pastors assured their members that they continued to be ready to serve their flocks whenever called upon to do so.

I pray that the need for online remote worship will end soon. In the meantime, I will join you in thanking God that his Word will not be silenced. As he told us, “[My Word] will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Guideline for pastors and congregational leaders

Communication

In a time of crisis or national emergency, it’s vitally important to find ways to communicate with your members to keep them informed, especially those who are at high risk. Many congregations have very quickly taken steps to do this. If you do not have the means to communicate in place, it is important that you put one into place that includes telephone, e-mail, text messaging, website, and social media. You may wish to identify members of your congregation who have expertise in information technology. If you have the means in place, congregational leadership should map out specific timetables and strategies to communicate with members.

- **E-mail:** If you do not have a complete or up-to-date listing of members’ e-mail addresses, begin efforts to gather that information as soon as possible and create an e-mail list for your congregation. Encourage members who do not have an e-mail account to set up a free account and learn how to use it.
- **Church website and social media:** If your congregation has a website or has a presence on social media, be sure to take full advantage of these tools. Place important notices in a prominent place on the home page of your website. You can include links to a special webpage that provides information on your plans and contingencies. All types of social media should be considered, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Worship

God's people naturally desire the comfort and guidance of God's Word as well as the encouragement of fellow Christians. This is especially true in times of crisis. However, because of government efforts to halt the spread of the virus, mandated limits to the size of public gatherings have resulted in the need to suspend regular worship services in many congregations.

This does not mean that worship needs to stop. Congregations are already finding creative ways to keep their people connected to the Word. Live streaming worship, Facebook Live, and sermons posted on websites are being used to serve members. If your congregation is still trying to determine how to do that, I suggest you contact other congregations that have found appropriate ways to continue serving the worship needs of their people. It's a time when we can learn from and help each other.

Communion

Since restrictions on gatherings vary from place to place, the celebration of the Lord's Supper will in some places need to be modified, depending on government restrictions and medical guidelines. Some congregations, if allowed by state and local authorities, are gathering in small groups and taking great care to practice good hygiene and recommended "social distancing."

In other places, even small gatherings are not allowed. There have been questions about how we should proceed when it comes to the celebration of the Lord's Supper when members cannot gather at church.

Regardless of the specific situation in which your congregation finds itself, here are a couple of things to remember. First, while Christians desire to be strengthened and comforted by the Lord's Supper, we also recognize that there are times when the normal celebration of Communion is not possible. For Christians serving in a war zone, for church members who are in a medically induced coma, for believers who are home-bound because of sickness or infirmity, the normal celebration of the Lord's Supper with other believers may not be an option. But in those cases we take comfort in knowing that we have the means of grace in two forms—Word and sacrament. The forgiveness conveyed and assured by the written or spoken Word of God is no less powerful and effective than the sacrament. In some cases, private Communion may certainly be available.

Second, we also recognize that there is no scriptural definition or requirement for how frequently Christians should celebrate the Lord's Supper. Jesus simply encourages us to receive the Lord's Supper regularly and often. There may be times such as this that, temporarily, the Lord's Supper may not be available as often as we would like or desire. For that reason, the Conference of Presidents is urging patience with the following advice:

"We encourage our congregations at this time to reserve the distribution of the Lord's Supper for its regular and normal use within the gathering of the body of believers (realizing that some changes in procedure may be made) or distributed privately by the pastor to individuals in need, as is the customary practice. We urge congregations to refrain from initiating novel approaches for celebration of the sacrament."

If you have specific questions, please contact your district president.

Pastoral care

There is no real substitute for in-person pastoral care. But pastors can communicate with their flocks and communicate the comfort and guidance of God's Word in ways that do not violate quarantines or require physical contact. Videos, podcasts, and e-mail are some of the ways that pastoral contact can be maintained.

Of course, pastors do have the responsibility to minister to their people even when it may put them at risk. Common sense will guide a pastor in not taking unnecessary risks involving his own health or the health of those he serves. When it becomes necessary for a faithful pastor to carry out his pastoral responsibilities, he will place himself firmly into the hands of a gracious God for protection.

Outreach to the community

Another article in this issue of *Together* will give some practical suggestions of ways that congregations and their members can show Christian love and be salt and light in their communities.

Finally, continue to trust in our gracious God and in his promises. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

[Spiritual and mental health support](#)

2020/03/24/in [Together](#)

With Americans told to stay home—away from church, school, and in some cases work—in an anxiety-inducing time, WELS ministries are creating and making available resources to help. Here are a few that we found. If your ministry, school, or congregation is offering spiritual or Christian educational resources that can be used by individuals and families, [let us know!](#) We'll continue to add to this list; check back often!

[Christian Family Solutions](#)

[Christian Family Solutions](#) has been “healing and helping people in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ” since 1965. This mission remains their focus during the COVID-19 situation. They are committed to serving communities with help, healing, and hope.

COVID-19 has certainly changed life as we know it, and Christian Family Solutions continues to provide counseling services and mental health treatment for those in need. They are equipped and ready to serve. All counseling clinic visits have shifted to appointments via secure video counseling, a service they have been offering for nearly 12 years.

The increased opportunity to connect virtually means that WELS pastors and ministry staff can still refer people through the [Member Assistance Program](#). Members can still connect to their counselor, and students can continue treatment outside of school.

Recognizing that finances may be a concern, Christian Family Solutions is removing that barrier by working with insurance companies, who are eliminating copays and taking special measures during this national public health emergency. Anyone who needs counseling should contact the intake staff at Christian Family Solutions on their website by clicking on [“REQUEST APPOINTMENT.”](#)

[On their website](#) you will also find resources, including videos, blogs, and pamphlets for churches and schools to distribute to their families. These Christ-centered materials are designed to instill calm and increase resilience during this challenging time.

Though the future is uncertain, we remain steadfast in our Savior. It is important to be purveyors of calm in this suddenly chaotic world. Christian Family Solutions is equipped to serve “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14), confident that COVID-19 will bring an abundance of opportunity to share hope in Christ with individuals, families, churches, and communities.

[Martin Luther College](#)

Martin Luther College will continue [livestreaming](#) daily chapel services Monday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. (central). Campus Pastor John Boeder says, “Whether you’re in California or Alaska or Georgia or Green Bay or New Ulm, by the miracle of modern technology we can gather to sing and worship and listen and pray. Chapel will be a welcome break in a day of distance learning. It will bring us together in Christ and strengthen us for serving him.”

[The Lutheran Home Association](#)

The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) has devotional resources for adults as well as young children. [Read Christian life devotions.](#) Parents are welcome to receive a collection of simple Bible stories for teaching children. Just e-mail jcm@tlha.org for more information. “We are privileged to serve God’s people during this time of uncertainty,” says Rev. Joel Gaertner, TLHA vice president of ministry.

[Time of Grace](#)

Time of Grace has videos, devotions, a blog, and more to help keep Christian’s focused on Christ. Time of Grace started posting devotions for families with grade-school aged children on its [Grace Talks Facebook group](#). Rev. Mike Novotny wrote a series of 11 devotions related to the coronavirus. They were just posted on YouVersion as a [Bible study plan](#) and Time of Grace will be publishing them starting this Sunday as Daily Grace Moments devotions. In addition, Rev. Jeremy Mattek is recording a video each weekday evening that will be distributed on Time of Grace’s [Facebook](#) page, Facebook group, and on Time of Grace [Instagram](#). These three to five minute videos give some biblical encouragement at the end of the day.

[Koine Worship Media](#)

Koine Worship Media, which produces various forms of media to be used in worship, is temporarily lifting restrictions on using videos during a livestream or prepared recording of a service. Read more from their [Facebook page](#).

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Pilgrim is posting daily video devotions, including a kid's devotion, to its Facebook page.

First Steps, Oconomowoc, Wis.

First Steps, the child care ministry of St. Matthew's, Oconomowoc, Wis., is posting Bible Time and education videos to its Facebook page.

Bread for Beggars online festival

Bread for Beggars is featuring WELS musicians nightly live on Facebook.

5toThrive

Dr. Rhoda Wolle, dean of student success and associate professor of education at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wis., produces a blog and podcast series called 5toThrive. A recent podcast titled "Resources for Learning from Home" can help families and educators while kids are home from school.

Livestreamed services from WELS Churches

If you're looking for worship-from-home opportunities, view a listing of WELS churches that live stream services.

Worship radio broadcasts

You can search the WELS Yearbook online for congregations that offer a radio broadcast of their services. [Search for churches](#) in your area and select "Church (with worship broadcast)."

Resources from WELS and NPH

2020/03/24/in Together

WELS and Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) are offering several resources for free to help you stay connected to your Lord, to your church, and to WELS during this time of unrest and change. Resources include hymn downloads, Sunday school materials, digital access to *Forward in Christ* magazine, and access to *Kids Connection* and *WELS Connection* videos.

Hymnal/music options

Eighty hymns from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* are now available to [download for free](#) from NPH. According to Mr. Jeremy Bakken, NPH director of worship and sacred music, these resources will help enable hymn singing for families at home, whether for their personal family worship or to participate with their church's online worship.

Downloads for these hymns include digital options (PDF and TIFF) as well as audio files of piano and organ accompaniments (M4A). Taken from the Lent and Easter sections as well as the Redeemer, Trust, Faith, Prayer, and Nation sections, all available hymns are in the public domain or have been granted permission for their use.

"We don't know how long the current crisis will last. With David, we ask 'How long, LORD?' (Psalm 13:1). But with him we also trust in God's unfailing love and rejoice in his salvation," says Bakken. "We pray these free resources will assist individuals and families with their devotional time, as well as help congregations holding services exclusively online for a time, to 'sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me' (Psalm 13:6)."

Individuals interested in having [Christian Worship](#) for at-home use can also purchase up to five copies of this hymnal at 50 percent off.

Congregational resource

WELS Communication Services is also releasing the March *WELS Connection* early for online viewing. Since many churches have suspended meeting in person for the next few weeks, congregations that haven't had time to show the *WELS Connection* this month can direct their members to [view it online](#). Pastors can also share [this direct link](#) to the video via e-mail to their members or download the video and add it to their church's website.