

March Together as a _____

Why is being a witness risky business?

What internal threats make witnessing risky?

What risks should we consider taking for the Lord?

How has God blessed the risks we have taken for him?

March Together as a _____

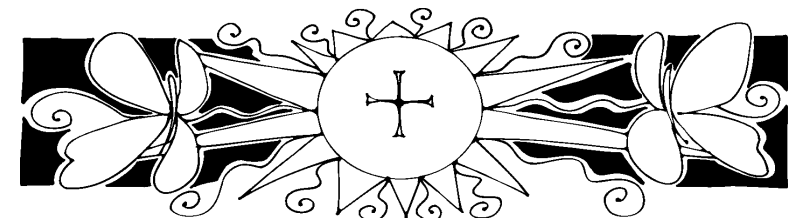
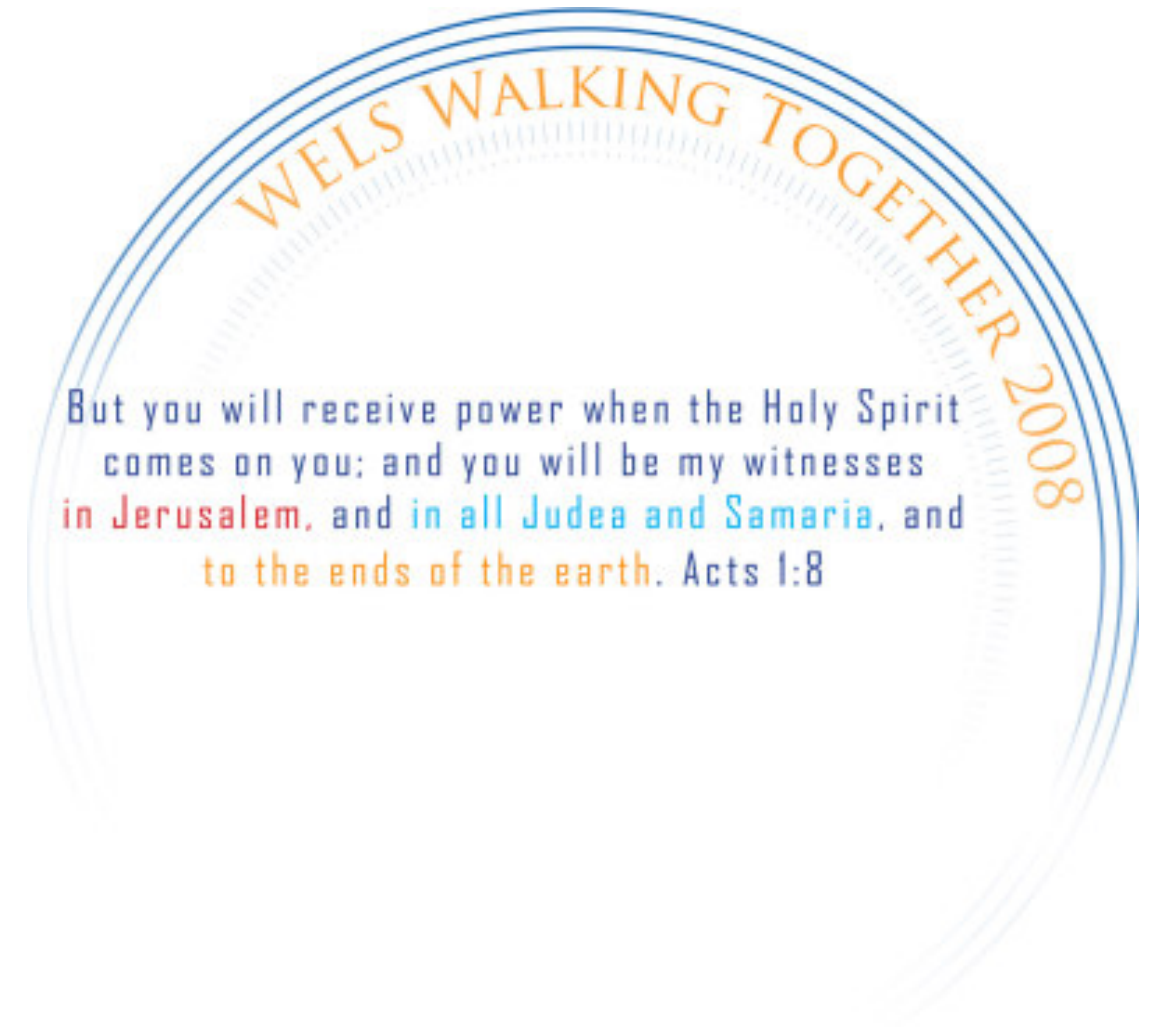
How did God use his disciples to reproduce his Church?

How does God use us to reproduce his Church in our ...

...Jerusalem?

... Judea & Samaria?

... Ends of the Earth?



Seventh Sunday Of Easter

MAY 4, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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WELS WALKING TOGETHER SUNDAY

Good morning!

As members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, today we have the opportunity to reflect on some of the ways we are blessed by our church body as a whole. Even though many of our congregations are hundreds of miles away, we share a connection with taking the Gospel into the world around us!

May God bless us as we worship Him this morning!

Opening Hymn..... “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”
Christian Worship Hymn 241

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
To God the Father let us bring
Our songs of adoration.
To him through everlasting days
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise
Whose hand sustains creation.
Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy,
God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.
He bought the Church with his own blood;
He cleansed her in that blessed flood
And as his bride selected.
Holy, Holy Is our union
And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us he wrought
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us his chosen nation.
Glory! Glory! Joy eternal,
Bliss supernal; There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be his name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore
And sing his praises more and more
For all his grace and favor.
Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy,
God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God the Lord of glory!

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

MESSAGE NOTES

MAY 4, 2008

“MARCH OFF THE MAP!”

Why did Alexander the Great order, "March off the map!"?

READ ACTS 1:8

March Together as a _____

- **The Spirit gives _____!**

What direction does the Spirit give God's Church?

What direction did the disciples want to go?

What things prevent us from following the Spirit's lead?

- **The Spirit gives _____!**

How did the Spirit give confidence to the disciples?

How do we underestimate the power of the Spirit?

What power has the Spirit given to us today?

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell: **"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)**
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that: **"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)**
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper: **"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)**
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior: **"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)**

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

The Common Service *Christian Worship page 15*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sing*) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: (*sing*) **Lord, have mercy on us; Christ, have mercy on us; Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: 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 of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sing*) Amen.

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

Song of Praise "Glory Be To God"
Christian Worship pages 16-17

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men,
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for you great glory,*

*O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty,
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

Continued on next page

*You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer,
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.*

*For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.
C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory,
you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **AMEN.**

BE SEATED

**FIRST LESSON
ISAIAH 54:2-5**

“The LORD tells of the expansion of the people of Israel, forshadowing the influence of his name throughout the earth.”

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

4 "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

5 For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: *(sing)* **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

BLESSING

Christian Worship pages 25

M: 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: *(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Lift High The Cross”
Christian Worship Hymn 579

Refrain: Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, when ever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (sing) **Amen.**

"O Christ, Lamb Of God" *Christian Worship page 23*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.*

A-men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

"Song of Simeon" *Christian Worship page 24*

*Lord, now you let your servant de-part in peace
ac-cord-ing to your word.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,*

*a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.*

PSALM 98 *Christian Worship page 103*

Refrain: *Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

*The Lord has made his salvation known,
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*

*He has remembered his love and his faithfulness,
to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.* Refrain

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;*

*make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.*

*Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.*

***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*** Refrain

SECOND LESSON
ROMANS 10:12-15

"Speak so others may believe!"

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age. Alleluia!

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON
MATTHEW 28:18-20

"Jesus' great claim, great commission and great comfort as we carry the Gospel to all nations."

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

After the reading of the Gospel Lesson:

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *CW pages 21-24*



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sing) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sing) It is good and right to do so.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, and join their glorious song:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" *Christian Worship page 22*

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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 forever. Amen.

Statement of Belief Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

Hymn “On Galilee's High Mountain”
Christian Worship Hymn 557

On Galilee's high mountain Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise Which all can understand:

"All pow'r to me is given To do what I shall choose.
Therefore I send my children; Their witness I will use."

The Lord, who, born of Mary, Came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened, For us was crucified.
This Lord, our living brother, In pow'r at God's right hand
Has chosen us to carry His truth to ev'ry land.

His strength within my weakness Will make me bold to say
How his redeeming power Transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me; With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken, With grace made eloquent.

And not alone to nations In faraway retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast His love through crowded streets.
The lives that my life touches, However great or small --
Let them through me see Jesus, Who served and saved us all.

Lord, gather all your children, Wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven To live eternally
With you, our loving Father, And Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives me The joy to persevere.

KID'S CHURCH

Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

MARCH OFF THE MAP!

Acts 1:8

STAND

“Create In Me A Clean Heart” *Christian Worship page 20*

*Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.*

*Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence,
and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.*

*Re-store un-to me the joy of your sal-va-tion,
and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A-men.*

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

WELS Walking Together video

STAND

Prayer of the Church *MISSION OF THE CHURCH*
Christian Worship page 129

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: **Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: **Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

Continued on next page