

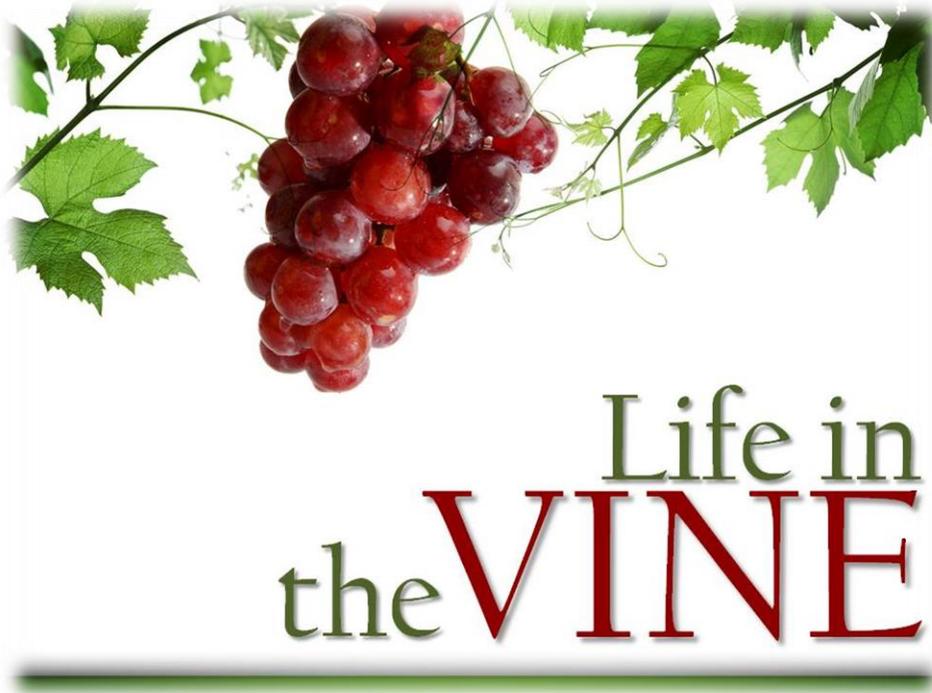
Bay Pines Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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baypineslutheranchurch.org

727.391.1810



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Principal Jeff Sell (school administration) 801.895.9910

Pastor David Priebe (visitation) 727.542.7662

If you'd like to connect with one of our ministers, please don't hesitate to give them a call/text/email at your convenience; they'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

Proclaiming Christ in Pinellas County

The Fifth Weekend of Easter

May 1 & 2, 2021

In the name of Jesus, our Savior & Lord, welcome!
Whether it's your first time with us or Bay Pines is
your church home, we're glad you're here! If you :



- . . . have questions, please ask – we'll do our best to answer;
- . . . need the restrooms, they're in the hallway just off the north-east corner of our sanctuary (so, if you're facing the altar up front, look back and left);
- . . . can stick around after worship, we'd love to get to know you;
- . . . would like a call from one of our staff, they'd love to meet with you!

If you brought young children today, thank you! Please know :

- . . . we love to hear them sing, pray, and speak along, and this is a great setting to help them respond to church, to God, and to one another;
- . . . their wiggles don't bother us (their wiggles don't bother Jesus, either);
- . . . you can sit up front where little eyes and ears are able to see and hear;
- . . . both the men's and women's restrooms have diaper-changing stations, and there's a cry-room adjacent the restrooms as well;
- . . . we love that each one of you is here; and we'd be blessed to serve you!

To adore the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*1 Corinthians 14:33, 40*), our path of worship is printed in this booklet. Today, the voice of the Shepherd reminds us that he alone is ***"the way, the truth, and the life"*** (*John 14:6*), as we consider the worship theme :

Easter : Life in Christ

Portions of today's worship are reprinted & livestreamed with permission from **Christian Worship : A Lutheran Hymnal & Christian Worship Supplement** under OneLicense.net #720148-A.

Video Magazine : The WELS' Connection

This snippet celebrates the work we get to do as a larger group of churches (a "synod").

Opening Song : Baptized into your Name Most Holy (TEXT BELOW; BLUE HYMNAL, PG. 8)

As we ponder Christ's victory, we also celebrate our baptism – which connects us to him!

The Invocation

Jesus promises that when we gather in his name, he's here to bless and be with us.

Minister : In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All : **Amen!**



***Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.***

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit (John 3:5, 6).

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us

(Psalm 51:5).

But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God *(1 Corinthians 6:11).*



***My loving Father, there you took me
To be hence-forth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.***

The Acknowledgment of our Wrongs

Sin offends God. Always. Aware of our own sin, we ask him for his forgiveness.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

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.



***My faithful God you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.***

*A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins
and our own, deep need for forgiveness.*

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Jesus lived, died, and rose to forgive the world's sins. By his grace, you're set free!

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). 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.

Amen!



***All that I am and love most dearly –
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.***

The Prayer of the Day

This petition appreciates Jesus' full forgiveness and asks for his guidance and blessing.

Lord God, as you form the minds of Christians into a single will, strengthen and bless us to love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, even among all of this world's challenges and changes, our hearts thrill for the joy of heaven with you. Savior, you are the One who lives and reigns with the Father

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; hear us as we pray in your name.

Amen!

A Childlike Illustration : Stay Connected to Jesus

This illustration & devotion are geared for the children & child-like with us today.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

A Reading from the Gospels: John 15:1-17

On the night before he died, Jesus boldly reminds his disciples – and us! – of the blessing in being connected to him and, at the same time, importance of remaining so. Grace. Faith.

The gospel according to John chapter 15.

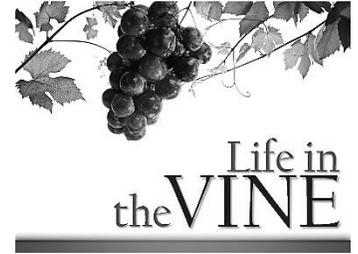
Glory be to you, O Lord!

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Remain in me, and I will remain in you.** No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. **Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

POINT TO PONDER :

John’s gospel lets us rejoice in who Christ is and in who we are connected to him. Use this section to identify and delight in both!

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. ⁸ **This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**



⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.** ¹³ **Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.** Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: **Love each other.**

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Statement of Faith : The Nicene Creed

This polemic creed defends against false doctrines that attack Jesus’ total Deity and total humanity. As we verbally express what our hearts believe, note the “God for us” emphasis.

Christians, in whom do we believe?

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 for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of 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.

Sung Response : Chief of Sinners Though I Be *(RED HYMNAL, 385, vv. 1-3)*

This stunning and personal hymn marvels at the amazing grace of our amazing God. In total love – totally undeserved! – he died for us and is bold to give us forgiveness and life in him!



**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity,
Love that found me – wondrous thought! –
Found me when I sought him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart, Comfort to a wounded heart:
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

A Sermon Founded On : John 15:1-8 (PRINTED ON PAGES 6 & 7 OF THIS BOOKLET)

The illustration is vivid and clear: Jesus is the vine in whom any sinner has life – physical, spiritual, eternal. And we do! In the joy of that relationship, we're blessed to stay and live!

GRAFTED BY HIS GRACE. GROWING TO HIS GLORY.

sermon notes :

Sermon Response : Chief of Sinners Though I Be (RED HYMNAL, 385, v. 4)

Though the “chief of sinners,” we also have the certainty to know that Christ died for us – and has grafted us to be “in him.” Easter assures it! We remain in him now and eternally!



Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.

All my wants to him are known; all my sorrows are his own.

Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav'nly life.

GOD ACCEPTS OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

The Offering (THANK YOU FOR USING THE AISLE BASKET FOR PHYSICAL OFFERINGS, & QR CODE FOR DIGITAL)

Concerning the offering, the Lord says “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); whether the Gospel moves your heart to support our ministry with an encouragement, a prayer, a help or a gift – thank you; please know we appreciate you for it!



GOD INVITES US

A note to worshippers about the practice of “Member Communion” :



As we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s Supper, we respectfully ask that guests to Bay Pines would please speak with Pastor Stern before coming to Communion. This practice is not an attempt to judge anyone’s heart, but it does stem from the Bible’s stress on the importance of a clear understanding of what this Supper is (I Cor. 11), as well as the importance of the clear, outward confession of unity it displays (I Cor. 10, et al.). Please understand this is done in loving respect for our Lord and for all people; and, please do feel free to speak with Pastor if you have any questions or concerns about it.

In the meanwhile, thank you for understanding and respecting the importance of our Lord’s commands; be assured that, though we might not yet gather together at the Lord’s Table, ***all of your sins are forgiven in the Gospel message!***

GOD INVITES US

The Sacrament and Lord's Prayer

Happily, we celebrate God's grace, ponder his peace, receive his Supper with thanks.

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.

A moment to offer today's prayer requests and our own, individual prayers

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

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,

Who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Sung Response : The Sanctus (MELODY: I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS; RED HYMNAL, 372)

With ancient accolades (Is. 6 & Mt. 21) we glorify the Holy (“Sanctus”) One: Jesus.



***O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might,
Your glory earth and heaven in countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy receive our fervent cry.***

***Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he
Who in God’s name is coming to set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation, and with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage – Hosanna, mighty Lord!***

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

This prayer ponders the redemptive love of the Holy One whose sacrifice set us free.

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen!

The Consecration, Distribution, and Reception of the Lord's Supper

*The Words of Institution are not a magical formula. But they do serve as a “**prayer** that the Lord may do what he's promised . . . as a **confession** that the body and blood of Christ are present in the Sacrament, and as an **invitation** to the communicants to make Jesus' promise their own through faith” (God So Loved the World, 505).*

In Holy Communion God gives us a unique opportunity to publicly confess our unity of faith. He also gives us a tangible reassurance that it was his body and blood – not ours – which paid the ransom price for the world's sins and sealed our salvation. With joy in our hearts and with hearts prepared to receive him, we hear and remember the words our Savior spoke:

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, 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, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen!

Sung Response : The Agnus Dei *(PRINTED IN THE FRONT PART OF THE BLUE HYMNAL, PG. 36)*

Jesus is the Lamb of God (“Agnus Dei”); so we plead for and praise him for his mercy.



***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen!***

In place of singing a hymn today, worshippers may find it wise to examine their own hearts using the Spirit Inspired of Psalms 1, 32, 51, 111.

Song of Thanksgiving : The Nunc Dimittis *(MELODY: O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR, 368)*

This song smiles at God’s grace that lets us depart (“nunc dimittis”) in peace with him.



***O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace assured:
For I have seen your promised, incarnate, saving Word –
A Light that will enlighten all gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant crowning glory of those in Israel!***

***All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever three in one;
For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding through all eternity.***

Lord, in this sacrament, you have given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet you are preparing for us and for all who believe in you as Savior and Lord; and, through this gift, you've fed our faith, nourished our hope, strengthened our love. Thank you! By your Spirit help us live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

GOD ASSURES US

Concluding Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Refreshed by his goodness, gifts, and grace, our service concludes with his promise to bless and be with us (Numb. 6).

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.

~ sung response : the final stanza of Chief of Sinners, Though I Be ~



***Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
By your Spirit and your Word.
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die!***

Bay Pines' Ministry Announcements :

for our prayers (please remember the family of these dear friends, too):

- our family and friends who battle everything from colds to COVID to cancers
- Cyndi Priebe, as God continues to strengthen her spirit and body
- Pastor Marcus Manthey (Gretchen Boehme's brother) as God strengthens him physically and spiritually to recover from sudden health difficulties
- Kerry Westbrook (Jeanine Bittinger's brother) as he deals with illness
- Eva Kiss, as she stays strong spiritually but struggles physically
- Judy Thrams, as she's accepted the Spirit's Call to serve among us!
- Devin and Katie (nee: Stacy) Radford as God blesses their married-life
- our nation & world, for healing in God's grace and confidence of God's glory
- our ministry in church, school, and life as we go forth with the gospel!

in our gratitude :

- each of you for being here to encourage with the gospel, and for going out to share the news of Jesus with others. **May Jesus smile on your mission work!**
- Sarah Sell and Bonnie Meiggs Buetzow for edifying our worship with music
- the Priebe, Cicco, Woodard & Dryden families for cleaning & lawn-care
- our tech crew for their efforts to make the service available online
- all who help with **Feeding God's People** (food is available in the altar kitchen & hallway just west of the sanctuary)
- all who make use of the **SCRIP** program as a blessing for our ministry (for more info on **SCRIP**, or to purchase the gift cards, please speak with Sarah Sell and/or Mary Dryden; to date, our ministry has benefited by SCRIP to a tune of just over \$7000. And we're thankful).

