WE MUST OBEY-RATHER THAN MEN

Acts 5:29

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

Pastor Andrew Bauer

(847) 438-5018 www.newlife-wels.org

Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entryway of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

<u>Before Service Prayer</u>: Living Lord and risen Savior, accept my alleluias and increase my joy that comes from knowing that You have risen from the dead. Comfort me with the assurance that my sins are forgiven and eternal life in heaven is sure. Let the joy of the Easter message lead me to go and tell the good news of Your resurrection to the people who don't know the true meaning of Easter. Let the light of my faith in You shine brightly as I face each day in the future and the day of my death on earth. I ask this in Your name, who rose for me. Amen.

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Theme for the Day: BECAUSE HE LIVES -- WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL MISSION

If Jesus remained dead, all He would provide is an example of a beautiful life. Therefore, if Jesus remained dead, the mission of His followers would simply be to share advice. *"Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another.* Or *"Jesus would want us to think about money like this."* Or *"This is how Jesus would pray."* But because He lives, His followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Thus, Jesus is not a standard, but our Savior. Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory will be the resurrection of all who put their faith in Him. Sharing that good news—*that's* our mission.

Pastor's Welcome

HYMN CW 449 "This Joyful Eastertide" (CW93 160)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **People:** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

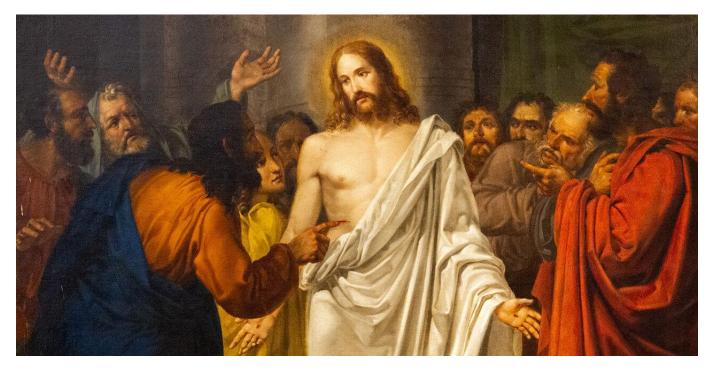
- Pastor:If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.People:If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
 - and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- People: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words and actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve Your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with His innocent suffering and death. Trusting in Him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- Pastor: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.
 People: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

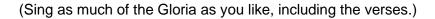


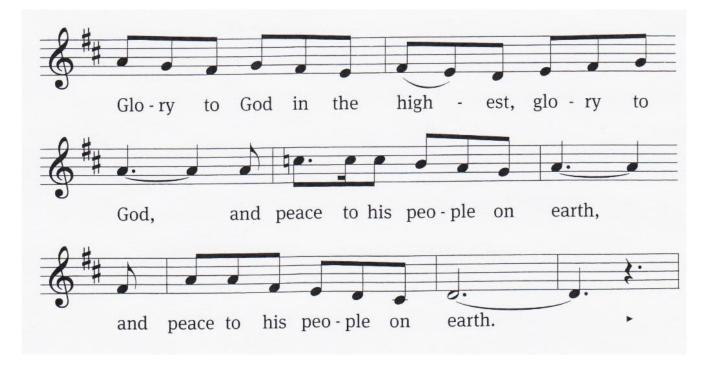






Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord!





Pastor: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

All: Refrain.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

All: Refrain.

Pastor: For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All: Refrain.

SALUTATION

Pastor:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
 O risen Lord, You came to Your disciples and took away their fears with Your word of peace. Come to us also by Your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of Your abiding presence; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 People: Amen.

WORD

EPISTLE Acts 5:12,17-32 – The apostles were not going to let opposition and persecution prevent them from fulfilling their meaningful mission of telling others about Christ's death and resurrection.

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. ²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³ "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." ²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

²⁵ Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people." ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." (NIV 2011)

Pastor:The Word of the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: Praise God for a living hope: Christ is risen from the dead!

All: Refrain.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL John 20:19-21 – Jesus lovingly deals with our doubts and provides us with peace so that we might be empowered to carry out the meaningful mission of sharing Christ's forgiveness.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter. **People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." ²² And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. (NIV 2011)

Pastor:The Gospel of the Lord.People:Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY CW 468 "These Things Did Thomas Count as Real" (Sung to a different melody than the one in the hymnal, CW 93 133)

SERMON

CREED The Nicene Creed

- We believe in God, the Father 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 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 worshipped 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.

OFFERING

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website. If you are visiting today, please fill out the bookmark and place it in the offering plate.



OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

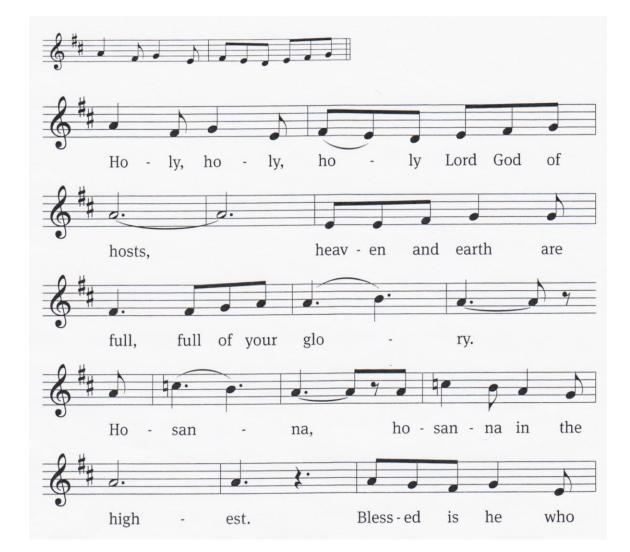
THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Pastor:Lift up your hearts.People:We lift them up to the Lord.

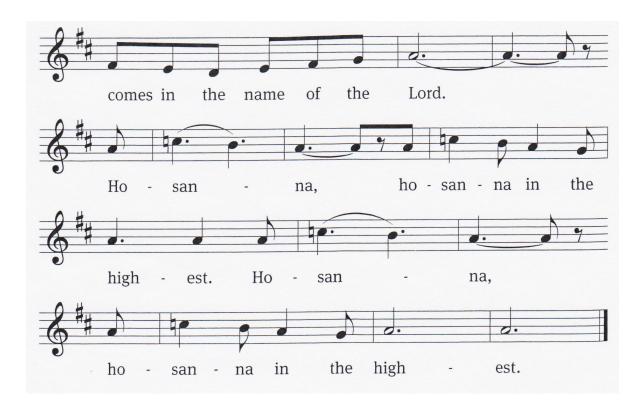
Pastor:Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People:It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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 by His willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by His glorious 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 (Sanctus)

(continued on the next page)



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love You made us the crown of Your creation. In mercy You planned our salvation. In grace You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give You thanks that Your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made His dwelling among us, that He willingly placed Himself under law to redeem those under law, that He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that He has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive Your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to His eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to You, O God our Father, and to Your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

People:

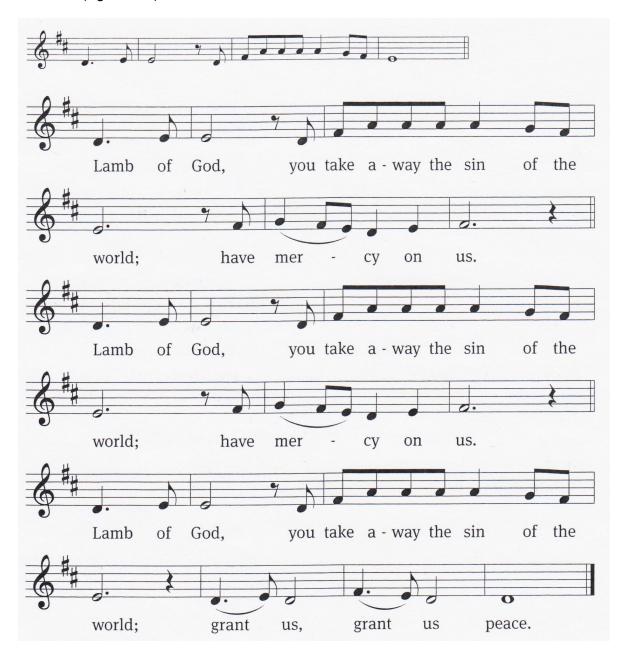
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Spoken by the pastor.)

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **People:** Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)



DISTRIBUTION

NEW LIFE'S COMMUNION PRACTICE

New Life Lutheran Church practices "close communion." We ask that <u>only members of New Life or other</u> <u>WES or ELS churches</u> partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW 456 "O Sons and Daughters of the King" (CW 93 165)

- Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
- People: His mercy endures forever.
- Pastor: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
- People: We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

CLOSING COLLECT

Pastor: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in Your loving-kindness You sent Your Son to share our humanity. We thank You that through Him You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that You will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve You day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: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.People:Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 448 "Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful"

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dall

 Today—Second Sunday of Easter Communion Service at 9:30 AM Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM
 Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM
 Sunday—Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service at 9:30 AM Fellowship at 10:30 AM Sunday School and adult Bible class at 10:45 AM Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers March 2025 through June 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 21-25. Please mark your calendar.

BRANCH CONNECTION SPRING BANQUET

The Branch Connection Spring Banquet will be held today with lunch starting at noon.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, April 20th we have received \$198,820 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us <u>\$6,445 **ahead**</u> of the budget, which is a \$4,388 improvement compared to the previous week. \$7,151 in gifts were given for the sign fund. In total we have received \$12,821 in gifts for the sign fund to date.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

The preschool will have a second open house on Tuesday, May 6 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Most of the preschool students come because of individual referrals. Thanks to the members for referring friends who have preschool age children to our preschool. What you have been doing, do more and more.

DIGITAL SIGN UPDATE

This past week the church council reviewed multiple bids to refurbish and upgrade our existing church sign to incorporate digital LED color message boards. The project involves removing our sign temporarily to facilitate the refurbishment and upgrade. Internal florescent lighting will be replaced with white LED lighting behind new polycarbonate church name and logo panels, and the current message area of the sign will be replaced with 3'x8' LED color panels. DG DeSign Group in Des Plaines was selected to do the work. The cost is \$17,801 plus permits and electrical work, approximately \$18,000-\$19,000 when complete. This is substantially less than the \$35,000 of the original bids.

The lower bid was accomplished through reduction of the LED panel size and rebidding the project. Currently, we have \$14,670 in funds allocated to the project which includes \$9,000 from our own reserves leaving a gap of about \$4000. Members who wish to contribute to the project are invited to do so. Please mark sign fund on your check or envelope. Gifts given will be used for the sign project and reduce any amount we would otherwise have to spend from our reserves.

The council thanks John Lester for leading this effort, finding vendors, and obtaining quotes, and Patrick Dexter for helping secure the winning bid. If members have questions regarding the project, please speak with a council member.

