

but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you.

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ* page 83
You may be seated.

SERMON: Pastor Steve Bang
“Our Heavenly Home” Revelation 21:1-7

Hymn, *If I Gained the World*Grey Hymn Book #642
Please stand.

Nicene Creed page 84
Prayer

Sharing of the Peace.
You may be seated.

Offering
Please stand.

Offertory, *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* page 86
Prayer..... page 87

The Great Thanksgiving page 88
The Lord’s Prayer page 91

You may be seated.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pre Communion, *Lamb of God* page 92
Communion Hymns, Grey Hymn Book #s 435, 399, 363

Please stand.

Post Communion Canticle, *Thank the Lord* page 92
Prayer page 94

Benediction page 95
Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*..... LBW #482
Purple Note request by Misty Juveland

Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Steve Bang
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Lectionary: Paris Reimann

Usher: Bill Schutter
Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum

Fifth Sunday of Easter

11 a.m., April 24, 2016

West Prairie Lutheran Church, LCMC

Service of Holy Communion

Pastor Steve Bang

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*..... LBW #356

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise, *This is the Feast* page 81

Prayer of the Day

All: **O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 11:1-18

Peter Reports at Jerusalem

Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea. The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man’s house. And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and

he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as *He did* upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

Psalm 148 (responsively)

The Whole Creation Invoked to Praise the LORD.

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;

C: praise Him in the heights!

L: Praise Him, all His angels;

C: praise Him, all His hosts!

L: Praise Him, sun and moon;

C: praise Him, all stars of light!

L: Praise Him, highest heavens,

C: and the waters that are above the heavens!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

C: for He commanded and they were created.

L: He has also established them forever and ever;

C: He has made a decree which will not pass away.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

C: sea monsters and all deeps;

L: fire and hail, snow and clouds;

C: stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

L: mountains and all hills;

C: fruit trees and all cedars;

L: beasts and all cattle;

C: creeping things and winged fowl;

L: kings of the earth and all peoples;

C: princes and all judges of the earth;

L: both young men and virgins;

C: old men and children.

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

C: for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.

L: And He has lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His godly ones;

C: even for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 21:1-7

The New Heaven and Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Please stand.

Alleluia page 83

GOSPEL LESSON: John 16:12-22

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*..... page 83

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

"A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." *Some* of His disciples then said to one another, "What is this thing He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" So they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too have grief now;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, April 24

6 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday, April 27

3 p.m. Confirmation Class

7 p.m. Bible Study

Next Sunday, May 1

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

6 p.m. Youth Group

Congregational Meeting will be held May 1 after the worship service. Congregation will vote on amending conflicting bylaws in the West Prairie Constitution regarding number of council members.

Confirmation will be held at Zion next Sunday, 11 a.m. worship service.

May Newsletter deadline is this Friday.

Prayer List—Lloyd Richards, Carver Moffat, Sam White, Angela Haugen, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Roger Peterson, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil. All prayer requests can be submitted to: www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; leave message on church answering system @641-567-3733; or called in to Pastor Steve @ 641-590-7894.

SERMON NOTES

“Our Heavenly Home” - Revelation 21:1-7

1. “I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of _____ from God, prepared as a bride dressed for her husband.” (Rev. 21:2)
2. The Bible devotes much less space to describing eternity than it does to convincing people that eternal life is available as a free _____ from God.
3. What you will find in _____ 21 & 22 is the most detailed description of heaven in the Bible.
4. There are many things we do not know about what heaven will be like, because it is beyond our _____ to comprehend.
5. There are 5 R’s about heaven: 1) Heaven will be _____.
6. Adam & Eve were not placed on a cloud, but on earth. Heaven will be like the Garden of Eden _____.
7. 2) Heaven will be a place of _____.
8. 3) Heaven will be _____.
9. 4) Heaven will be _____.
10. 5) Heaven will be the _____ of God.
11. We will have no greater reward or relationship than being with our wonderful God and seeing Him _____ to _____.
12. Only God knows the day of our death and He urges us to be _____ because none of this will be ours unless “our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”