

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (setting 1) 10:30 am
May 5, 2024

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA).

Phone: 202.966.5489

Fax: 202.362.9165

Website: www.stpaulslutherandc.com

Email: office@stpaulslutherandc.com



The Rev. Dr. Andrea L. Walker, Pastor
awalker@stpaulslutherandc.com

Lisa B. Wackler
Director of Congregational Life
lwackler@stpaulslutherandc.com

Sonja Kahler & Matt Larson
Music Directors
skahler@stpaulslutherandc.com
mlarson@stpaulslutherandc.com

Joy C. Belew
Office Administrator
joyb@stpaulslutherandc.com

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fantasia on *Christ lay in death's strong bands* (BWV 695)—J.S. Bach

(see hymn #370)

Please see note at end of bulletin for more on today's music.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

*HYMN

ELW 650

In Christ there is no east or west


*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

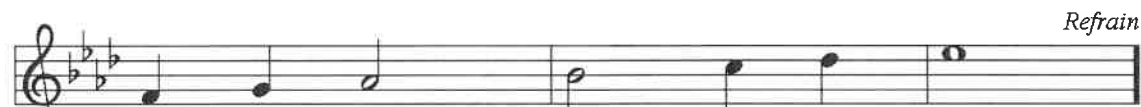


hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

Today's Psalm (not read):

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands .

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

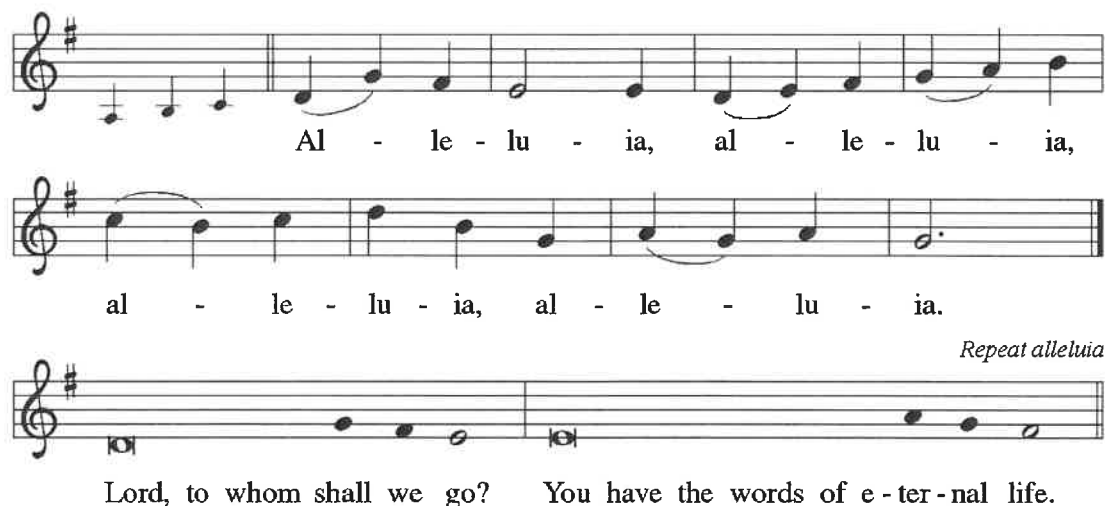
¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God

and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***GOSPEL**

John 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 367

Now all the vault of heaven resounds

***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 for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for*) God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

You can text your offering to 844-262-6943 — Text To Give.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

If ye love me—Thomas Tallis

*If ye love Me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and He shall give you another Comforter,
that He may abide with you forever;
Even the Spirit of truth.
(John 14: 15-17)*

(Communion Assistants come to the altar at the Offertory Hymn)

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

LBW 149

This joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
sprung to life this mor - - row.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our
 faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A** Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus
 Christ, our true vine.
- C** Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

C 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come forward by way of the center aisle to receive Christ's body and blood. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Please pick up a small glass from the trays on either side of the aisle.

After receiving the bread, you will then find two chalices on each side of either the pastor or assisting minister, the first being a pouring chalice of wine and the second being a pouring chalice of grape juice. Used glasses can then be placed in the trays on the far side of the communion assistants. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

SONG OF THE LAMB

ELW 362 (stz 1)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 838

Beautiful Savior

***TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and
nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of
Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 836

Joyful, joyful we adore thee

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Christ lay in death's strong bands (BWV 625)—J.S. Bach
(see hymn #370)

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22714.

Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially; Roland Davis, Marlee, Susanne Maier-Meise, Lynn Adkins, Jay Guerber, Michael & Ludette Palero, Donna Hershey, Betty Mastrobattista, Shannon Isenberg, Chris Gockeley, Caleb Benedict, the Dubinsky family, Dan Isley, Vicky, Ron & Nancy Rademacher, Sharon Defalco, Meaghan, Vesper Seeney, Andi, Vi Baker, Tionna, Robert Grathwol, Mildred Shannon, June Ericsson, Isaiah, Karen Brunn, Mihkel & Sarah Smit, Pearl Apisson, Stephanie Skurcenski, Sue Ericsson, Grace Yin. For all those suffering in the Middle East, Ukraine and Haiti and for all those persecuted for their religious beliefs throughout the world.

Serving Today:

Altar Flowers: **Carol Wake**

Altar Guild: **Valerie Nadal, Rosalind Carter**

Greeters/Ushers: **Carl Muhlbauer, Valerie Nadal, Funke Idowu**

Lay Reader: **Dana Brewer Harris**

Communion Assistants: **Christi Barnhart, Valerie Nadal, Rosalind Carter, Dave Grossman**

A/V Assistant: **Mike Barnhart**

Coffee Hour: **Veronica Ferris**

Music Note

The prelude and postlude are both by J.S. Bach (1685-1750) and both treat hymn #370, a classic Easter chorale created by Martin Luther and his preferred music editor, Johann Walter. They used both the existing German hymn, “Christ is arisen” at hymn #372, and its forerunner, the Latin sequence hymn “Victimae paschali laudes” (at hymn #371), to fashion a third, related tune and add more stanzas. J.S. Bach recognized the theological and musical power of Luther’s yet-improved hymn (“gebessert”/”bettered”, Luther said) and used it as the basis of a number of organ works and cantatas.

The composer of today's choral anthem, Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585), lived some 200 years earlier than Bach, through a time of great religious change in England. King Henry VIII established the Church of England in 1534 by separating from the Roman Catholic church and the pope's authority. A distinctly Anglican liturgy with a focus on English, rather than Latin, soon emerged. As a consequence, Tallis's *If Ye Love Me* is one of the first anthems written and published in English.

Sustained by God.

WE SUSTAIN THE
COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL'S



Rejoicing in 180 years!

650

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.
Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

MCKEE
C/M

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Beautiful Savior

838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of God and of the spar - kling stars on high;
 bright Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

836

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!