ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Sunday, April 27, 2025

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image. Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. If you need any other help with worship, please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDES

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Jennifer Higdon

First State Flute Choir

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,

and called to live the baptized life,

let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church;

waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one. Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. Amen.

> The presiding minister may asperge (sprinkle) the congregation with water during the singing of the opening hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

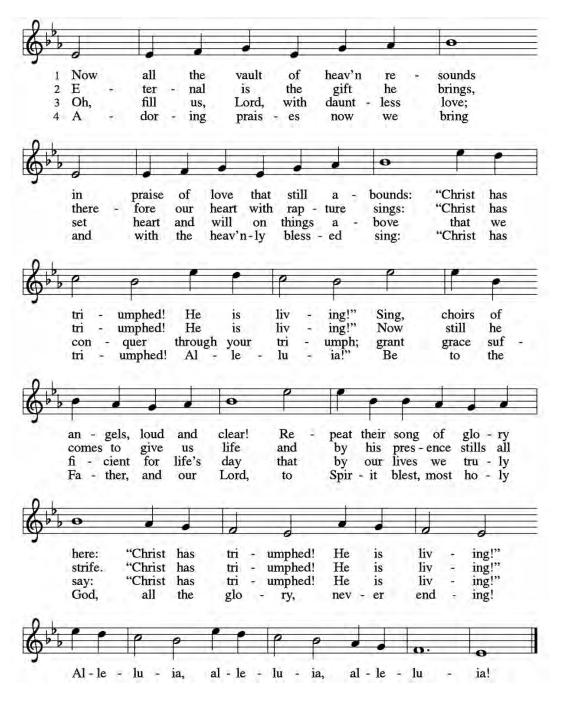
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367 (harmony) Found on p. 4

GREETING

Holy God, Lover of your children: the tomb has been opened, **and we dance into your future.** Your life has dawned on us, **and we surround you with our praise.** You reach out your hand, **and lead us into joy.** The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

The service continues with the Prayer of the Day on p. 5



The service continues with the Greeting on p. 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus

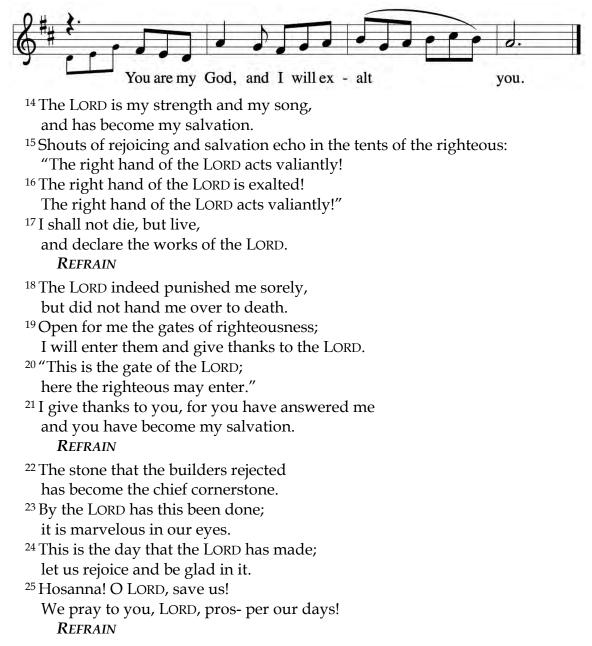
A reading from Acts:

²⁷ When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted this Jesus to be Leader and Savior at God's right hand, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit who has given to those who obey God."

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive. **God will meet us on our journey.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

The choir sings the Refrain; the congregation repeats it. The choir then sings the verses; the congregation responds with the Refrain.



²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever. REFRAIN

SECOND READING **Revelation 1:4-8**

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming

A reading from Revelation:

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before God's throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the rulers of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a dominion, priests serving his God and Father, to Jesus Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

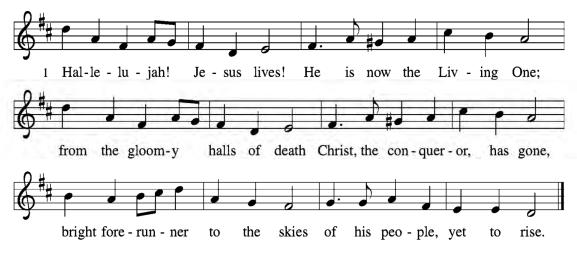
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive. God will meet us on our journey.

Please stand, as you are able.

WELCOMING	Hallelujah! Jesus Lives	ELW 380
THE GOSPEL	FRED TIL BOD	Verse 1



HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

The Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O risen Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but

believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

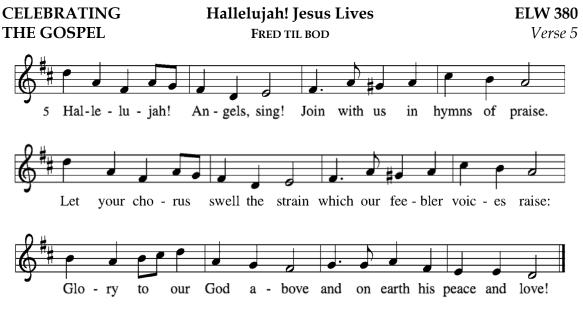
³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O risen Christ.**

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

JP & Friends



Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

SERMON

Pastor Greg Johnson

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY



Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith: 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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way, especially Henry, Robin, Phyllis, Michael, Hugh, those on our prayer list, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(*brief silence*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Help us and our partners in ministry, especially Community Lutheran Church in Frankford and Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Odessa, to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, the first-born of the dead, so that those who have not yet seen may come to believe in him. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places, especially Pope Francis, Jeanetta, and Marie. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly exchanges Christ's peace in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.**

Be seated.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask *visitors* to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask *members* to update any changes to their information so records are maintained.

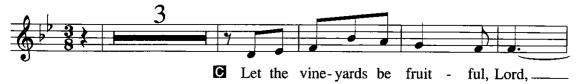
ANTHEM "O Sons and Daughters of the King" arr. Organ Sanctuary Choir

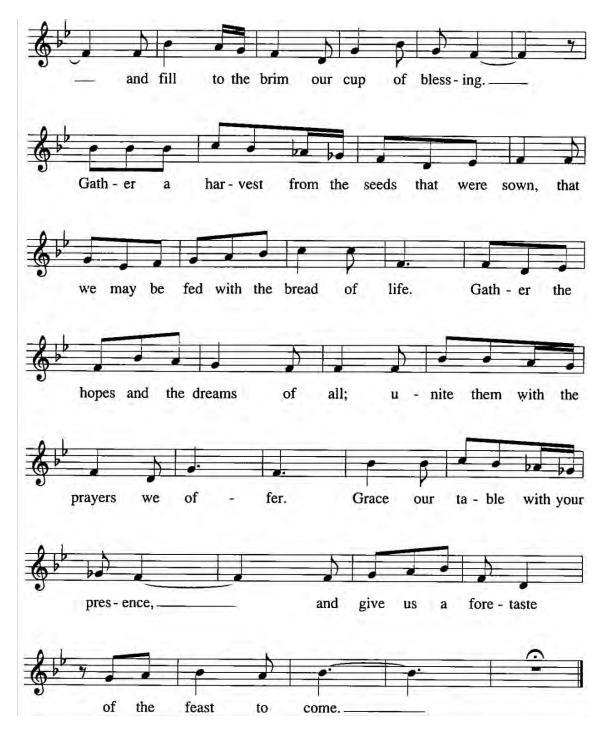
Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Mass of Creation Marty Haugen

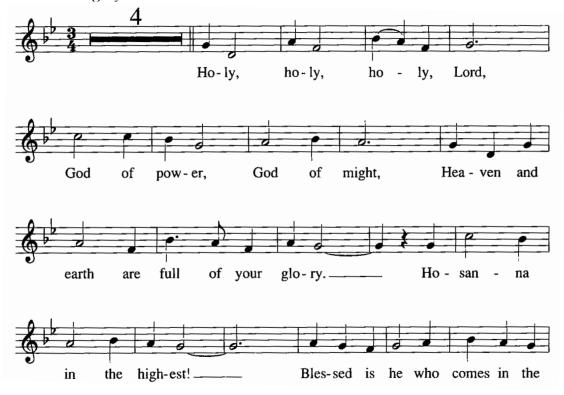


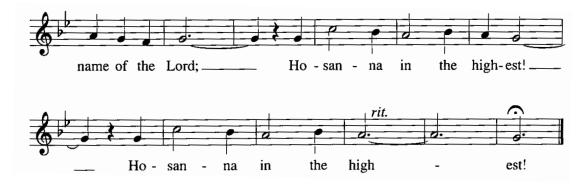


GREAT THANKSGIVING

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





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

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 life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

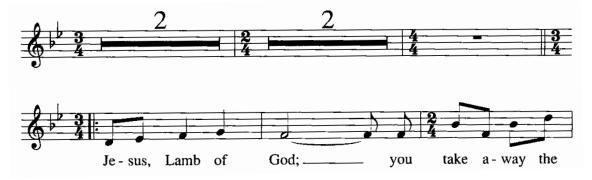
Amen

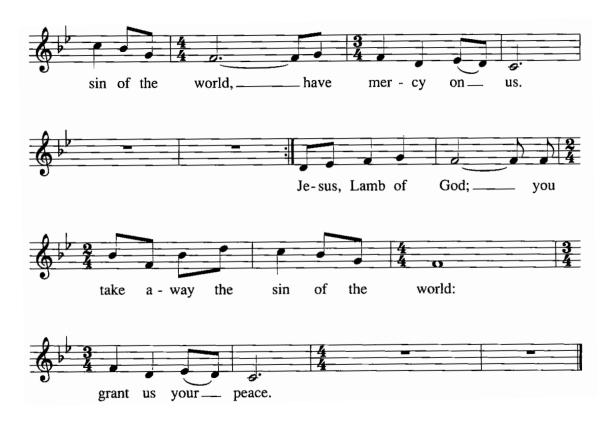
God, who is, who was, and who is to come, hear us as we pray as Jesus teaches us,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to the table of grace. **We come to receive the gift of new life.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD





Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.



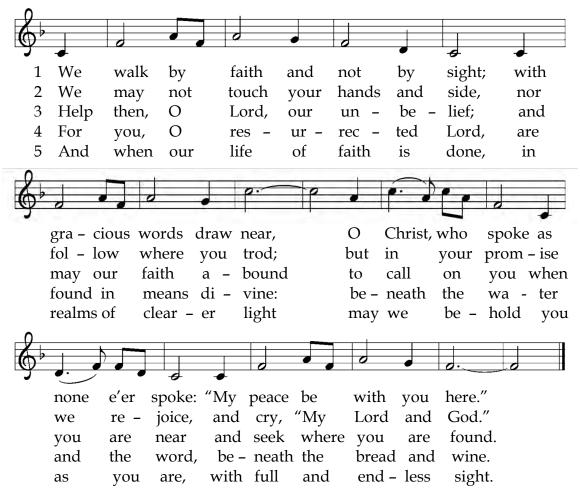
Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

VOLUNTARY

"What Wondrous Love Is This" First State Flute Choir arr. John E. Davis

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight Tune: ELW 779



Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt. Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

After all have communed and returned to their places, remain seated.



BLESSING AND PRAYER

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

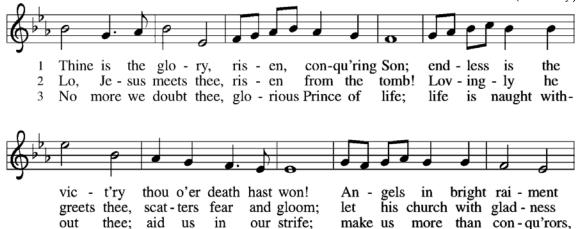
BENEDICTION

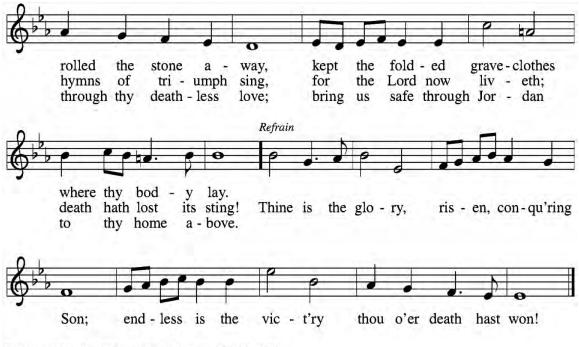
The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376 (harmony)





Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Air" from the *Brook Green Suite* First State Flute Choir

Gustav Holst



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God in memory of Maureen Burskey by Cheri and Troy Simons.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:		Lorraine Fett		
	Lector:	Kaye Tyson		
	Crucifer:			
	Bread Provider:	Sherry Mench		
	Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick		

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia.

John 20:29

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OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

On Thursday, May 15, the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) will tour the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover, DE. Our free guided tour begins at 10:00 AM. Following the visit to the museum, we'll have lunch at the Olive Garden restaurant in Dover (on your own). If you'd like to join us, please RSVP to Sue and Rich Wallden at slwallden@gmail.com by May 7. Let them know if you'd like transportation or can provide transportation to others.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27, 2025

PRESIDING THIS MORNING

We welcome Pastor Greg Johnson this morning as presider and preacher, and of course, JP and friends. Pastor Cris is out of the office for Navy training through **May 2**. He will have access to email and his cell phone for most of that time. If there is an urgent pastoral need, please contact the church office and you will receive contact information for Pastor Greg.

Adult Forum

The Creeds – Old Testament Prophecies

Our Adult Forum series on the Creeds, *Believe it or not... at your peril*, continues next Sunday with a look at the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah. Our instructor will be the Rev. Ronald Mease. Class begins at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please join us on Wednesday, **May 14, at 7:00 PM** at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this week will be "The Concepts of Grace and Salvation".

HOLY HIKE

The next "Holy Hikers" hike will be on Sunday, **May 18**, at Carousel Park off Limestone Road in Wilmington. This is a four-mile trail, with mixed terrain and some hills.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Youth Room. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

May 28 "Tomorrow Will Be Different" by Sarah McBride

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: <u>www.stpaulsnewarkde.org</u>

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

The Reverend Cris Frigm Pastor 302-368-0064 ext. 104 pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Jerilynn Hinrichs Office Administrator 302-368-0064 ext. 101 office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Church Council Anne Sullivan, *President* Greg Johnson, *Vice President* Heidi Burch, *Secretary* Mary Collins, *Treasurer* Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke, Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to: prayonstspauls@gmail.com Dlson Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at <u>office@stpaulsnewarkde.org</u>

WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH? THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE



Michael Bareham Director for Music and Worship 302-368-0064 ext. 123 <u>music@stpaulsnewarkde.org</u>

Nalini Janaki Business Administrator 302-368-0064 ext. 102 business@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Vacant

Early Education Director St. Paul's Lutheran School 302-368-0064 ext. 118 <u>stpaulschool@comcast.net</u>