

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sunday, May 18, 2025

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**



Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light – through the lens of love.

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.

PRELUDE

"Now the Green Blade Riseth"

arr. Marianne Kim

NOËL NOUVELET

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

God, We Gather as Your People

ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o-pened, fling the church doors o-pen
 wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side.
 For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -
 long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DIALOG AND GREETING

Praise God, all people!

Praise the Lord, all creation!

Whales doing backflips in the air,
 squid and octopi dancing on the ocean floor;

**giant redwoods stretching to the sky,
 tomato vines cuddling around a stake.**

Mountains blocking the sunrise,
 moles tunneling through our front lawns;

**5-year-olds sitting in a story-time circle,
 grandparents singing 'their song.'**

Redbuds decorating our backyard,
 grass growing faster than our children;
seals getting a suntan on the rocks,

teenagers knotted together at church.

Praise the Lord, all creation!

Praise God, all people!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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 11:1-18

Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life

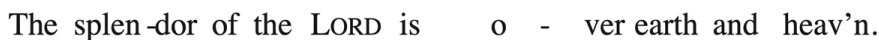
A reading from Acts:

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for

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

Refrain: Ps. 148:13

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



³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

- ⁴ Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.



- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹² young men and maidens,
old and young together.

REFRAIN

- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
Hallelujah!

REFRAIN

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem

A reading from Revelation:

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them;

they will be God’s people,

and that very God will be with them,

⁴ and will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new,” and also said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ Then the one seated on the throne said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive.

God will meet us on our journey.

Please stand, as you are able.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

Alleluia! Voices Raise

ELW 828

Verse 1

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Voic - es raise, sound - ing God Al -

might - y's praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you

The Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O risen Lord.

³¹ When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son-of-Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in God's own self and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

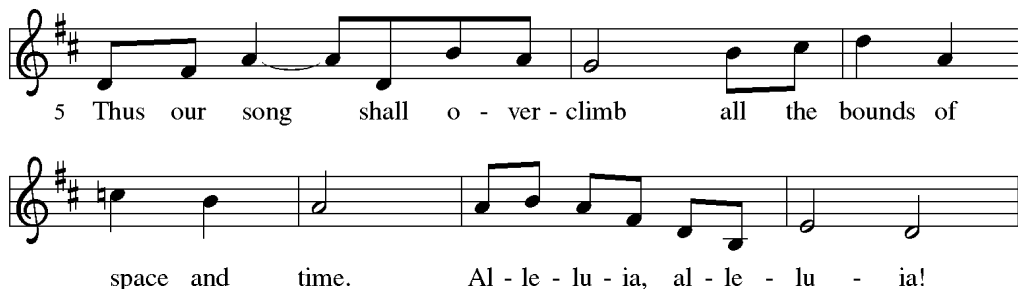
Praise to you, O risen Christ.

CELEBRATING THE GOSPEL

Alleluia! Voices Raise

ELW 828

Verse 5





Text: George Wither, 1588–1667, alt., based on Psalms 148 and 150
 Music: PRINCETON, Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
 Music © 1990, 1991 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Christine Therriault-Merkel

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come with Joy
 ELW 482

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

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.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness, Becky and Kathy. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out upon us and our partners in ministry, especially Faith Lutheran Church in Salisbury and St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Pike Creek, your Spirit of faithful love and abundant compassion, so that we may rejoice in the splendor of your works while we wait with expectation for the new heaven and the new

earth you promise when Christ will come again. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love, especially Erik, King of Sweden, whom we commemorate today. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. 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.

✙ MEAL ✙

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

"Ubi Caritas"

arr. Johnson

Sanctuary Choir

Translation on p. 14

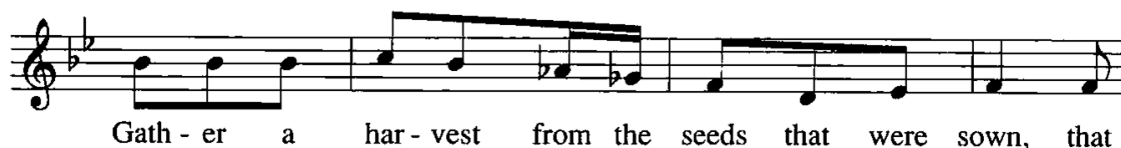
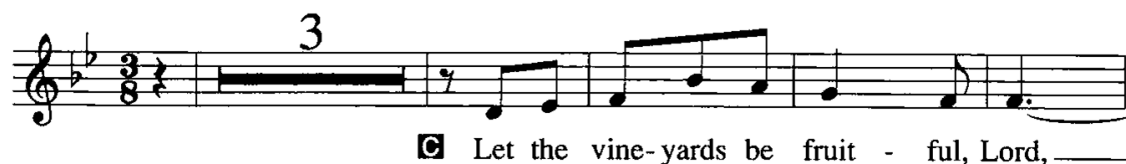
Where there is charity and love, God is there.
 The love of Christ has gathered us together.
 Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
 And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

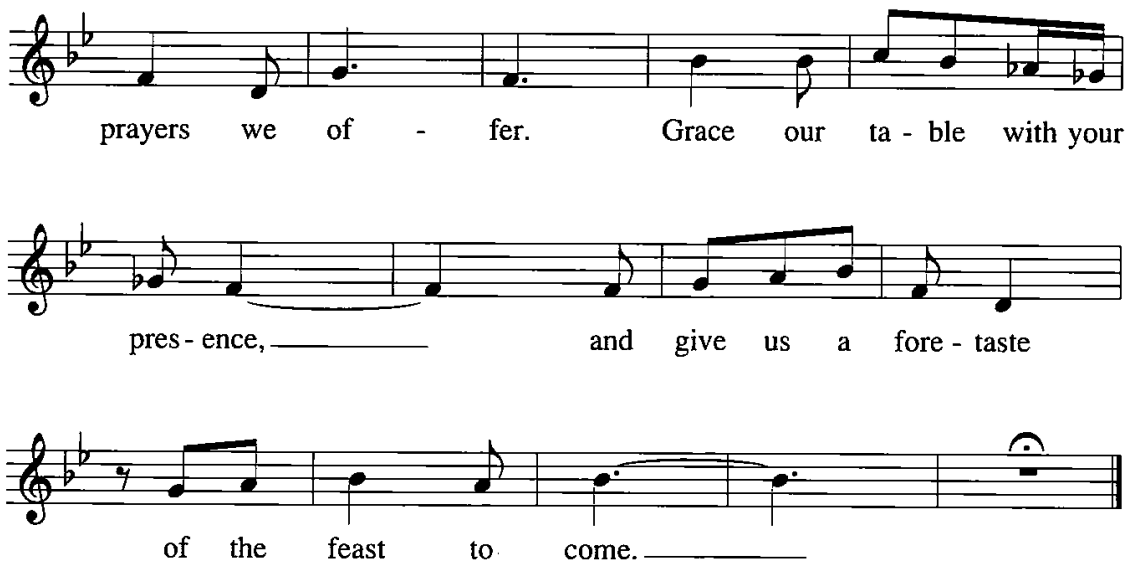
Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Creation Setting
 Marty Haugen





OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,
 you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we
 bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with
 this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

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:

Creation Setting
Marty Haugen

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

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,

who taught us to pray...

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

Creation Setting
Marty Haugen

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you take a - way the

sin of the world, ——— have mer - cy on — us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you

take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us your — peace.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

O God, Who Gives Us Life

ACS 1086



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

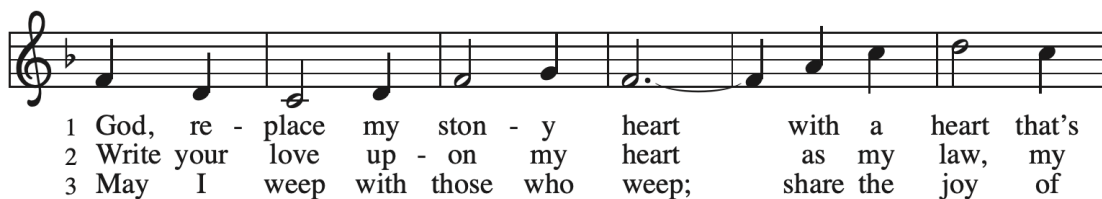
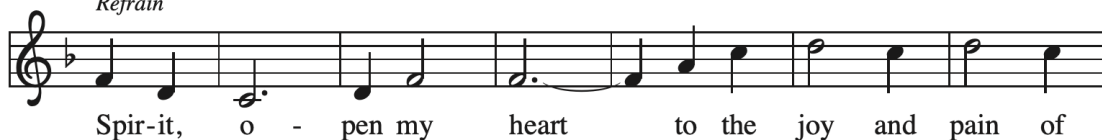
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Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Found on p, 20

Refrain



Refrain



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

*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, we 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

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Found on p. 22

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

“I Come with Joy”

arr. Walter Pelz

DOVE OF PEACE



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.



The flowers in the chancel are given
 to the glory and praise of God.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Victoria Kenyon

Lector: Eric Mease

Bread Provider: Linda Brammer

Altar Guild: Janet Mease

Flower Guild: Janet Mease

Alleluia.

*Everyone will know that you are my disciples
if you have love for one another.*

Alleluia.

John 13:35

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ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Visions of the end time work their way into our Easter worship. A strange and wondrous vision from God instructs Peter about how wide the new fellowship in Christ might be. John's vision of a new Jerusalem suggests that beginnings and endings are tied to Jesus. And in the gospel, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his departure. We, too, gather this day as Jesus' end-time community, with one foot planted in this world and the other in the world to come.

WELCOME PASTOR CHRISTINE

We welcome Pastor Christine Therriault-Merkel as presiding minister and preacher this morning while Pastor Cris is on vacation. He will return to the office on Tuesday, May 20. Pastor Robbie Ketcham (Tree of Life, Odessa) will be on call for pastoral emergencies. He can be reached at 614-554-1226.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dr. Rae Watts brings over a decade of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education, with a strong background in Educational Leadership. As the new School Director, she is deeply committed to fostering a nurturing, faith-based environment where young children can grow, learn, and thrive. Dr. Rae is passionate about combining her love for early childhood development with her devotion to Christ. She is honored to lead the school into a bright and purposeful future, grounded in love, learning, and spiritual growth.

NOISY OFFERING

We will be collecting an offering for the DE-MD Synod's World Hunger appeal to be taken to Synod Assembly at the end of May. Please bring your spare change and drop it in the designated container on the narthex welcome table. We will be collecting change on **Sundays, May 18 and 25**. You can also place a check in the offering plate designated for "World Hunger" or give through Tithe.ly (QR code on the back of the bulletin).

CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY

The New Ark Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Michael Larkin, will present their eighteenth annual *American Tapestry* concert on **Sunday, May 25, at 3PM** here in the sanctuary at St. Paul's. Come enjoy music celebrating the American experience. While tickets are available at the door, they can also be purchased online by visiting: www.brownpapertickets.com (a modest fee applies). Tickets are \$20.00; those eighteen and under are admitted for free. A reception will follow the concert.

ADULT FORUM

Please note, this will be the last Adult Forum this spring. We'll be back in the fall with more interesting topics for your consideration. Thank you for your participation this year and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

May 28 "Tomorrow Will Be Different" by Sarah McBride

NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

If you are ready to take the next step and become a member of St. Paul's, you are invited to join us for two AMAZING GRACE discussions - the first discussion will take place just after our 10 AM service on **Sunday, June 1**, and last about 90 minutes. The second discussion will take place just after our 10 AM service on **Sunday, June 8**, and last about 60 minutes.

Then, on **Sunday, June 22**, the service of affirmation of faith is your moment to be welcomed as new members during the Sunday worship service.

Please RSVP your intention to join us no later than today, **Sunday, May 18**, by emailing coordinator Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com. If this timing does not work for your schedule, we will be offering another opportunity in the near future. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at church.

HOLY HIKE

We will be hiking today after worship, at Carousel Park off Limestone Road in Wilmington. This is a four-mile trail, with mixed terrain and some hills.



	Apr 2025 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	Apr 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendanc e	YTD Average Sunday Attendanc e
TOTAL INCOME	33,911.27	105,898.6 7	109,512.0 0	(3,613.33)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,192.00	112,974.2 0	109,584.0 0	3,390.20		
VARIANCE	(280.73)	(7,075.53)	(72.00)		99	93

- **Income:** YTD is 3% (\$3,613.33) behind YTD budget projections. Pledged giving is 9% ahead of budget, while unpledged giving continues to lag budget by 42%. Please note that several families have completed their pledges for the year, but only the year-to-date equivalent portion of these pledges is shown.
- **Worship & Music Expenses:** YTD are 85% (\$1,806.06) above budget due to vocal music, instrumental music, online resource licensing, instrumental maintenance & tuning and miscellaneous worship expenses. Several of these items are seasonal, annual or semi-annual expenses.
- **Total Property Expenses:** YTD are 21% (\$4,825.51) above budget YTD due to high utility, cleaning supplies, HVAC repairs, inspections and property insurance expenses. Again, several of these items are annual, semi-annual or seasonal expenses.
- **All Other Expense Categories (Personnel, Administration, Faith Formation, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence):** All these categories are running at or under budget.

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Join us on the Perfect Day Trip. The OWLS will be taking off to Hamilton, New Jersey on **Wednesday, June 11**, to visit the *Grounds for Sculpture*. You'll experience phenomenal art in a gorgeous park as well as enjoy a delicious lunch at the onsite Van Gogh Cafe.

Grounds for Sculpture is a magical place where art and nature are always at play. We'll experience more than 270 sculptures, each thoughtfully positioned on meticulously landscaped parkland full of thousands of exotic trees and flowers. We'll conclude our visit with some delicious salads and sandwiches (lunch on your own).

We'll be carpooling from the school side parking lot – leaving promptly at 9AM and arriving at approximately 10:30 AM. We'll stroll around the grounds until about 1:30 PM, then enjoy our lunch. We anticipate heading home by 2:30 PM, arriving back at the parking lot about 4 PM.

Cost per person is \$25 for 18 and over, and \$18 for 65 and over. Please RSVP with your cash payment to Linda Grund no later than Sunday May 25. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Contact your host Linda Grund at 302-738-5491 or lgrund923@gmail.com.

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Psalm 148 is a chorus of praise by everything in creation, from distant stars down to the atmosphere, then to mountaintops and tall trees, wild animals and creepy-crawlies, and humans of every age and gender. Praise! Praise! Praise! Then amid the abundance of creation's praise, the "new heavens and a new earth" of Revelation 21:1 descend because, in love, "the home of God is among mortals" (v. 3). The image of God's gracious presence is intensified with Peter's vision of unclean animals—it's worth reading lists in Leviticus 11 of what was unclean, enumerating pigs, shellfish, buzzards, bats, bugs, mice, geckos, and so on. Yet God created them and saw they were good (Gen. 1), and they, too, join the chorus of praise. Hallelujah!





St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

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



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Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

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St. Paul's Lutheran School

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stpaulschool@comcast.net

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

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 office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

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

