

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**  
**Sunday, June 1, 2025**

**10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion**



In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

---

## 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, you are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground 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	"All Things Bright and Beautiful" – arr. Krug	Handbell
	ROYAL OAK	Ensemble

### 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

## Look! The Sight Is Glorious

LBW 156



- 1 Look, oh, look, the sight is glo - rious, see the man of sor - rows now;
- 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels crown him! Rich the tro - phies Je - sus brings;
- 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned him, mock - ing thus the Sav - ior's claim;
- 4 Hark! Those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark! Those loud tri - um - phant chords!



from the fight re - turned vic - to - rious, ev - 'ry knee to him shall bow.  
on the seat of pow'r en - throne him while the vault of heav - en rings.  
saints and an - gels crowd a - round him, own his ti - tle, praise his name.  
Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion; oh, what joy the sight af - fords!



Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him!  
Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him!  
Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him!  
Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him! Crown him!



Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.  
Crown the Sav - ior, King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior, King of kings.  
Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame! Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame!  
King of kings and Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

## DIALOG AND GREETING

We come to this place of prayer,  
**for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,  
our hidden fears  
and the doubts we wear on our sleeves.**

We come to this place of grace,  
**for here we learn compassion and joy,  
and discover how deeply we are loved.**

We come with these people  
called the church,  
**to be blessed by the variety of gifts,  
to live as one for our God.**

The grace of our risen and ascended 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.

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, 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 1:1-11**

*Jesus sends the apostles*

A reading from Acts:

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive.

**God will meet us on our journey.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

## Psalm 47

Refrain: Ps. 47:5

*The choir sings the Refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

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



<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is to be feared:  
a great king over all the earth,

<sup>3</sup> who subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet;  
<sup>4</sup> who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.



<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.  
<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.

#### REFRAIN

<sup>7</sup> For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a song.  
<sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God is enthroned on high.  
<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

#### REFRAIN

## SECOND READING

### Ephesians 1:15-23

*Eyes to see the risen and ascended Christ*

A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who

believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**WELCOMING  
 THE GOSPEL**

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!**

**ELW 393**  
*Verse 1*

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
 trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 24:44-53**

*Christ present in all times and places*

The Gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O risen Christ.**

**CELEBRATING  
THE GOSPEL**

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!**

**ELW 393**

*Verse 5*



5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -





Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections  
 on this morning's message. Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*



*Please stand, as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands**

ACS 953

*Found on pp. 10-11*

# Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands



1 Be - fore the An-cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and  
 2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in  
 3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and  
 hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his  
 prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and  
 glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -  
 serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,  
 ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.  
 clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence  
 Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the  
 you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and  
 tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -  
 great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Our World Belongs to God*, articles 1, 2, 6  
Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection and reign of Christ:  
**As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world –  
which some seek to control,  
but which others view with despair –  
we declare with joy and trust:  
Our world belongs to God!  
From the beginning,  
through all the crises of our times,  
until his kingdom fully comes,  
God keeps covenant forever.  
Our world belongs to him!  
God is King! Let the earth be glad!  
Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!  
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!**

**We rejoice in the goodness of God,  
renounce the works of darkness,  
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.  
As covenant partners,  
called to faithful obedience,  
and set free for joyful praise,  
we offer our hearts and lives  
to do God's work in his world.**

With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,  
we expect the Day of the Lord.

And we are confident  
that the light which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Our world belongs to you.

## 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.*

God of empowerment, you have blessed the church with art, poetry, and music.  
Inspire leaders and congregations to seek more ways to be your creative hands  
and feet on earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, your love can be seen in each plant, each creature, and every  
landscape. Nurture crops as they develop. Protect new animal life. Restore  
habitats destroyed by natural disaster or human neglect. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you are enthroned above all. Bring an end to divisions that  
break down the human family. Enable cooperation between governments and  
international organizations to pursue peace and equity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you console all who are hurting. Help us recognize the deep  
hurts of grief, loneliness, broken relationships, and trauma in our midst. Guide  
us in caring for one another, especially Nancy, 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.**

God of change, you promised to be with your disciples as they faced an  
unknown future. Amid graduations and other transitions, sustain your people  
with your presence and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of wisdom, send your Spirit of revelation, that in the blessed freedom of hope, we and our Maryland partners in ministry, especially Grace Lutheran Church in Easton and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ocean City, may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing songs of joy with the peoples of earth to the One who makes us one body. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give you thanks for the lives and examples of our beloved siblings in Christ, especially Gene. Nourish and deepen our shared faith in your promises. 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 and ascended 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****"Ascension Prayer"**  
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Keesecker

*Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.***OFFERTORY****Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***Creation Setting*  
Marty Haugen

3

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, —

— and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. —

Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the

hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, — and give us a fore - taste



## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen and ascended 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.**

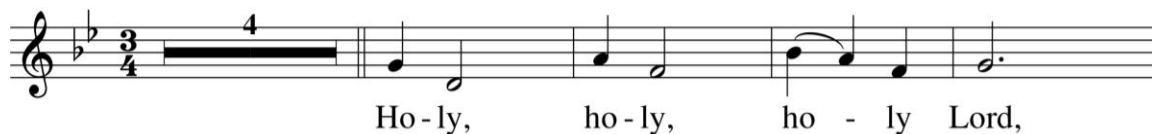
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

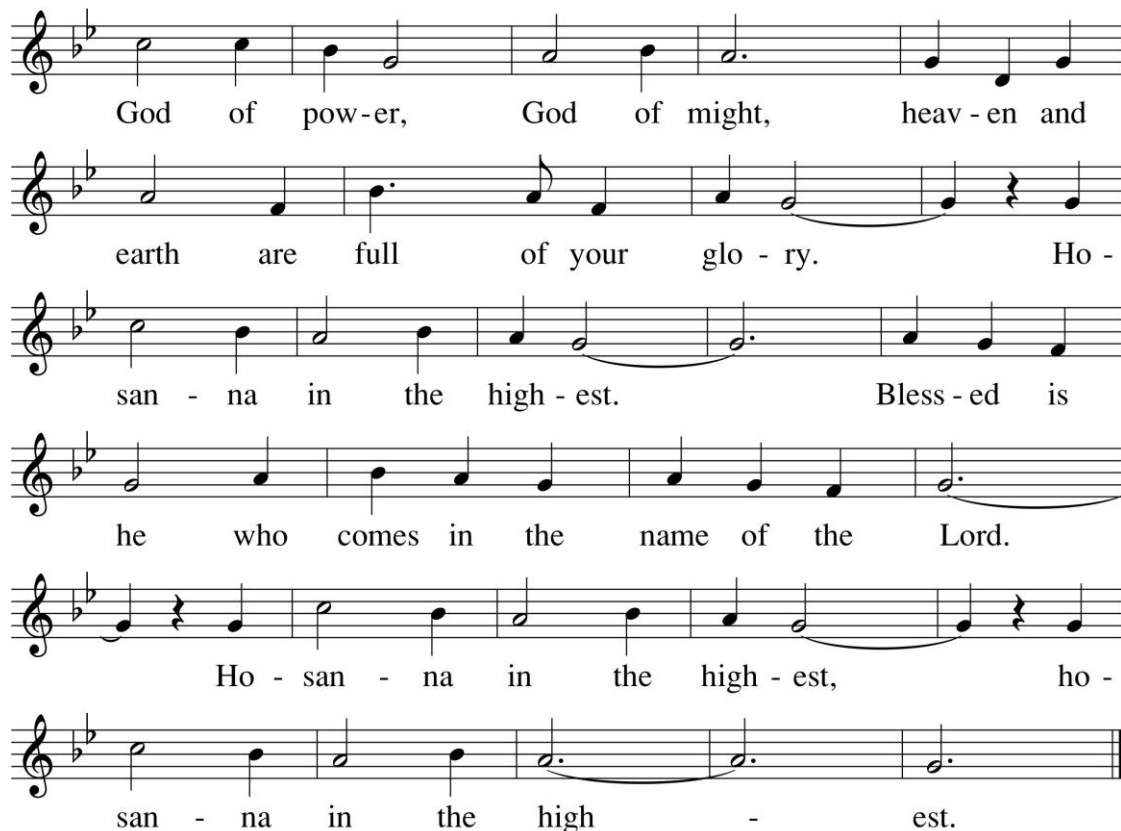
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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;  
 who, enthroned forever at your right hand,  
 intercedes for us as our great high priest.

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





## 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  
*Found on p. 18*

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

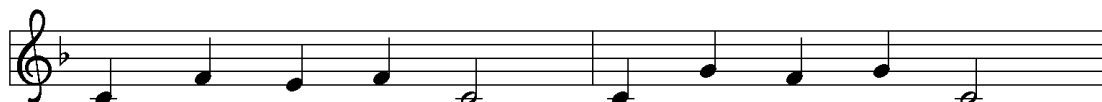
Day of Arising  
ELW 374



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

O Christ, Our Hope  
ELW 604

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry

might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through

ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

*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

**Rise, O Sun of Righteousness**

**ELW 657**

*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!**

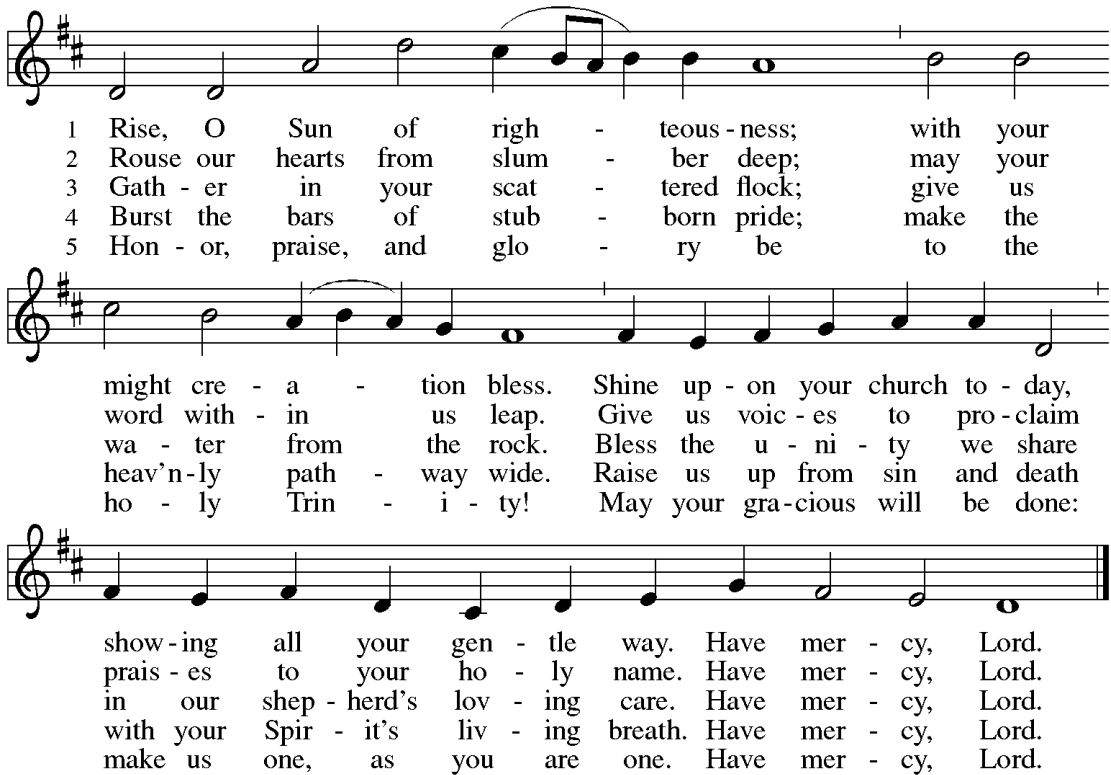
## POSTLUDE

“Amen Alleluia” – arr. Childers

Handbell Ensemble

MADRID

# Rise, O Sun of Righteousness



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the  
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.



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



### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Jeanine Heath  
Lector: Kaye Tyson  
Bread Provider: Sherry Mench  
Altar Guild: Linda Radwick  
Flower Guild: Gale Paul

*Alleluia.*

*Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;  
I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

*Alleluia.*

Matt. 28:19-20

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103532.

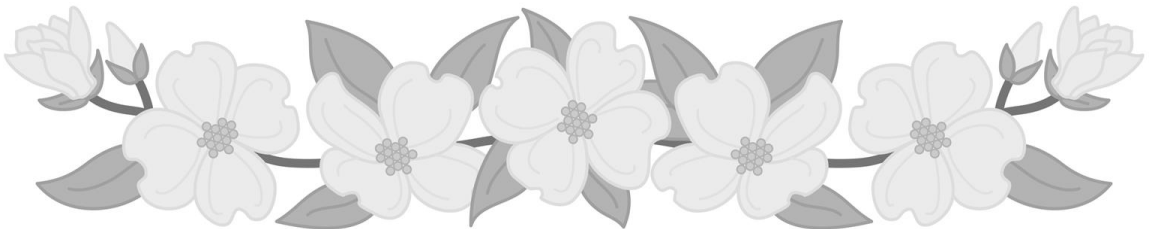
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

*Dialog for Easter 7C* written by Thom M. Shuman ©2022 [LectionaryLiturgies.blogspot.com](http://LectionaryLiturgies.blogspot.com)  
Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

*Holy Communion Creation Setting* written by Marty Haugen © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. ([giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)) Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from OneLicense.net with license #A-719656. All rights reserved.



## HE ASCENDED, AND WE IN HIM

“Two men in white robes” acknowledge the great mystery that scripture and the creeds attest to: “He ascended into heaven.” Jesus has been taken up from us, ascending into heaven, back to the right hand of the Father. Yet he is taken up *for* us, both as a pledge of our own future bodily resurrection following his, but also as a means of empowering our witness to him on earth amongst all sorrowing flesh. Having descended from heaven to take up our flesh, fulfilling scripture and accomplishing our salvation, Jesus now ascends back from whence he came, bearing our humanity into the presence of God forever. Our human flesh, in all its frailty and redeemed glory, is now before God forever! So no longer are things in heaven and life on earth far apart, and no longer is the suffering and weakness of our own flesh far off from God’s own life. Thus the two men ask the gawking disciples, “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” Just as God has put God’s great power to work in raising up Christ above all things, so in this same ascension God has given us a glimpse of the heavenly glory that we too one day shall share in, and that we share in already within the church, “which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” Confident that Christ has brought our humanity on high, we are unleashed to be his people in this world.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

The Ascension was a great and indescribable cause for joy, for in it the nature of humankind ascended, above the dignity of all the heavenly creatures, rising above the angelic order, above the sublimity of the archangels, until, received into the company of the eternal Father, it was made a sharer of the throne of God’s glory, to whose nature it was united in the Son. Therefore, the Ascension of Christ is our uplifting, for where the glory of Our Head shall go, there the hope of our body is called. Let us then rejoice exceedingly with fitting joy, and let us be glad with devout thanksgiving. For on this day, not alone are we made sure heirs of paradise, but in Christ we have already reached the heights of heaven, and we have obtained more abundant gifts through the ineffable favor of Christ than we lost through the envy of the devil.

— Leo, in *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, II, 425-426



# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1, 2025

## ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The risen Lord enters the invisible presence of God in order to be present in all times and in all places to the church and to the world. Where shall we find the risen and ascended Lord today? In his word and his bread, in his people and his washing with water and the Spirit, and in all who cry out for mercy.

## COME, SHARE THE SPIRIT!

We keep the resurrection next Sunday, June 8, by celebrating the Spirit of the risen Christ in our midst on the Day of Pentecost. Show your spirit for the Spirit by wearing the liturgical color red, or any other fiery colors, to worship.

## SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

Next Sunday, June 8, we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day of Easter. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins or our language. Therefore, we are seeking people to share a variety of languages as the passage from the prophet Joel is read during our second reading (Acts 2:1-12). Let Pastor Cris or Mike Bareham know you are willing to read, and you will be provided the text in your "own language."

## GRADUATION RECOGNITION

We would like to recognize our graduates in worship on **Sunday, June 29**. If you have someone in your family graduating from high school, college, or a trade school, please contact the church office ([office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)) by **Wednesday, June 25**, so that we can congratulate and pray for them as they transition to a new stage of their journey.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."  
(James 5:16) St. Paul's has a prayer chain that is available for those who are in

need. You can request prayer by emailing prayonstpauls@gmail.com (it's on the back cover of the bulletin every week). **Use that email also to be added to the email distribution list to see prayer requests and add your voice to our communal prayers.**

We are also in need of folks to receive prayer requests and forward them to the distribution list. Volunteers cover a day of the week and technical support will be provided. If you are interested in being part of this important ministry, please speak with Pastor Cris or Janet Mease.

### **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.

**June 25** "The Measure" by Nikki Erlich

### **OLDER WISER LUTHERANS**

The OWLS will be traveling to Grounds for Sculpture tour and lunch at Rat's Restaurant on Wednesday, June 11. We will be leaving at 9 AM. Please contact Linda Grund with any questions.

### **BREWING THEOLOGY**

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, June 18, at 7 PM. Our topic will be the role of faith in modern life. Our hosts will be Mark & Lynn Deschere located at 309 Sweet Gum Court, Middletown, DE. Please RSVP to [lynn@deschere.com](mailto:lynn@deschere.com).

### **HOLY HIKE**

Our next hike will be on Sunday, June 29, along the C & D Canal, east from Biddle's Point. This will be a four-to-five-mile hike - out and back, along a flat, paved trail. We will meet at the trail head at Biddle's Point off Cox Neck Road in Delaware City.

## "GIFTS TO SHARE" SURVEY

St. Paul's is blessed with a congregation that is "Full to the Brim" with special gifts, talents, interests and energy to support the ministries of our church. We know that there are many members and visitors that have hidden talents or are seeking information on existing opportunities.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey to allow us to continue to be an inclusive church, which works to have all members involved in activities. You can find the survey on the St. Paul's webpage by clicking on the link "Gifts to Share" or by using the QR code to the right.



## NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

Our "Amazing Grace" conversation for prospective members will take place today after worship. Today's session will last about ninety minutes. New members will be received in worship on June 22.

## SPECIAL ADULT FORUM

Pastor Cris will be sharing about his work as a Navy Reserve Chaplain on **Sunday, June 29** after worship. Bring your questions about his ministry and hear more about what it is like to serve in the Navy "part-time."

## CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Jesus floating off in a cloud and disappearing from sight may be a strange occasion to think about his presence with us in our world. But that is precisely the Lutheran notion for this day! As Jesus ascended to be seated "at [God's] right hand in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:20), that is what allowed Luther to develop the notion of the ubiquity of Christ, meaning Christ is everywhere present. In arguing with Huldrych Zwingli about the real presence of Christ in communion bread and wine, Luther said that Christ is also present in your cabbage soup (*Luther's Works*, vol. 37, p. 69). Whether you are receiving Christ in communion today or eating cabbage soup, know that Christ ascended to be everywhere present for you in promise.



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

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

*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](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

### **Jerilynn Hinrichs**

*Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

[office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto: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

### **Michael Bareham**

*Director for Music and Worship*

302-368-0064 ext. 123

[music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

### **Nalini Janaki**

*Business Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 102

[business@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:business@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

### **Dr. Rae Watts**

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

### **St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry**

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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

