



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Good Shepherd Sunday, April 26, 2026

### 10 AM Service of Holy Communion



Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

#### **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

"Rhosymedre"  
First State Flute Choir

R. V. Williams  
arr. Nancy Nourse

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the gatekeeper  
and shepherd, and find our way home.

**In the lap of a parent,**

**God's compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door  
into life with him forever.

**We are baptized with living waters which refresh us,  
restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth,  
is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

**The Breath of life stills our worries and fears,  
as we are led to that peaceful place of God's heart.**

### OPENING HYMN

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**  
ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -



tri - umph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 song to strew his way; let all the world re - joice and say:  
 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 day with one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text © 1952, 1980 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

## HOLY BAPTISM Vanessa Jeanne Brussel

### PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Vanessa, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

Heidi, as Vanessa's sponsor, do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Vanessa and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**We do.**

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

*Water is poured into the font during the thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister baptizes the candidate:*

Vanessa Jeanne, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

## **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:*

Sustain Vanessa with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.*

Vanessa Jeanne, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

## WELCOME

*A candle is lit from the Paschal candle and given to the sponsor as a representative of the congregation says:*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

*A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome:*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

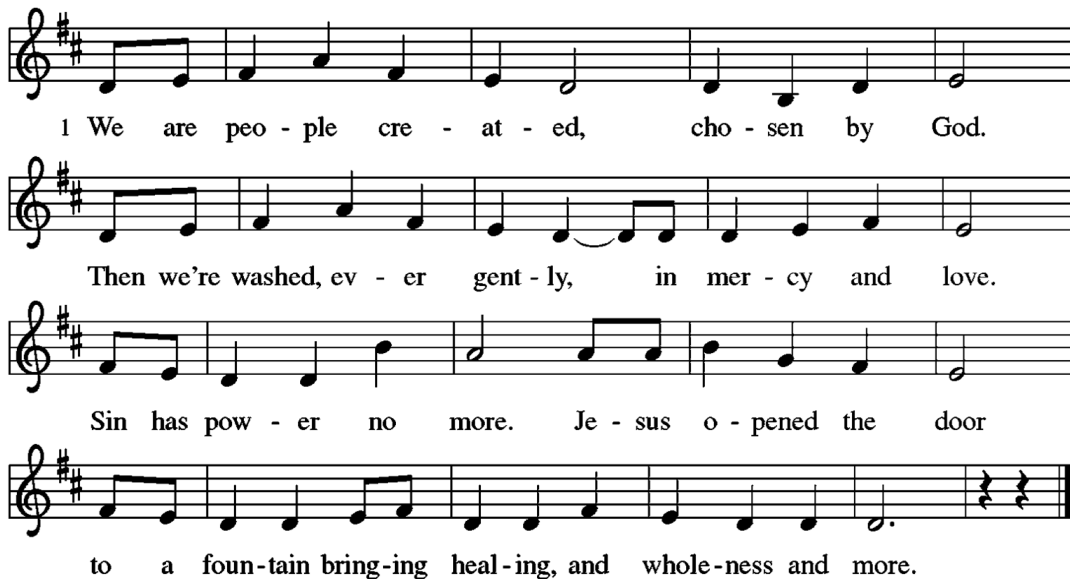
**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: growing in faith, growing in community, and welcoming all in Jesus' name.**

*The newly baptized returns to her place in the pews during the singing of the hymn.*

## COVENANT HYMN

## Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453; Vs. 1



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
to a foun-tain bring-ing heal-ing, and whole-ness and more.

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

God Almighty, the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

**Ezekiel 34:7-15**

*God will shepherd Israel*

A reading from Ezekiel:

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, <sup>9</sup>therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort

them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 100**

Refrain: Ps. 100:3

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

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

**REFRAIN**

Linda Cable Shute



We are God's peo - ple and the sheep of God's pas - ture.

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;

we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

**REFRAIN**

<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.

<sup>5</sup> Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

**REFRAIN**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 2:19-25

*Follow the shepherd, even in suffering*

A reading from First Peter:

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Lord is risen! The Word is alive.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174

*Found on p. 10*

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

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

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.  
I know my own and my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

*The Alleluia is repeated after the verse is sung.*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 10:1-10**

*Christ the shepherd*

The Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”  
<sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Cris Frigm

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

ELW 789 (harmony)

*Found on p. 11*



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide

us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured, especially those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts, especially Jane...*(a brief silence)*. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Bless Vanessa, the newest member of your church and surround her with your love as we feast and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love, especially Bob. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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**

“All Things New”  
Sanctuary Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

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

**OFFERTORY**

**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 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 of the feast to come.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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:

**Holy**  
ELW Setting 4



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover  
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world and breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever, even as we pray as Jesus taught 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.**

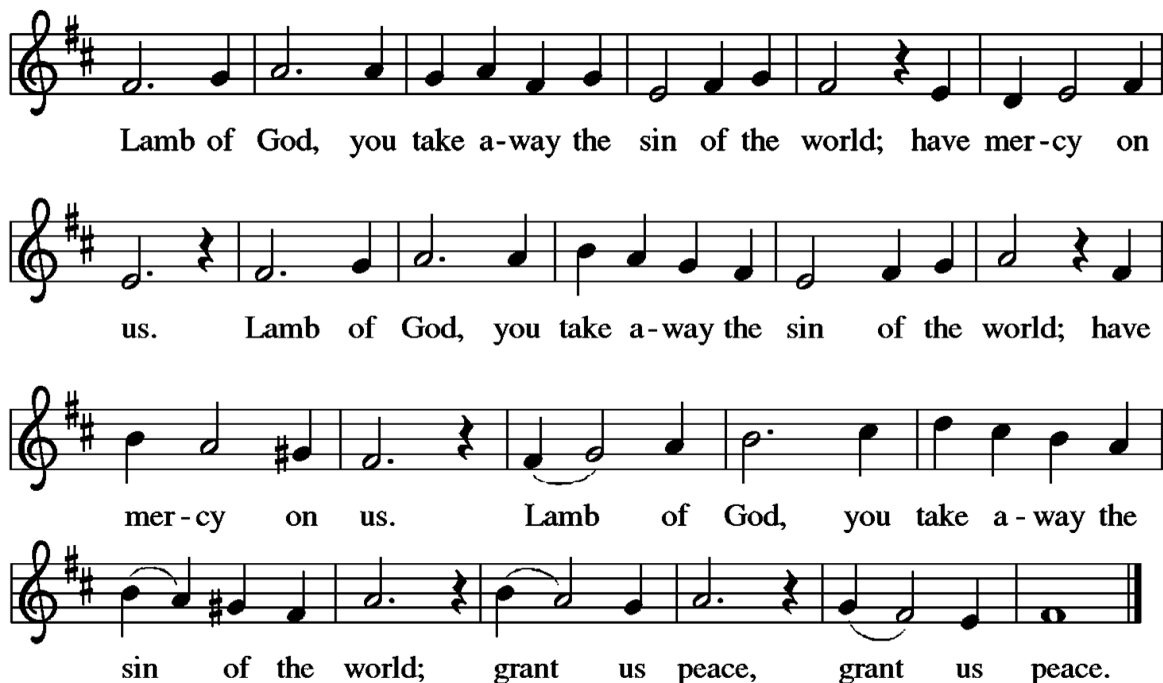
## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.  
**We come to this table where we are known and loved.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## Lamb of God

ELW Setting 4



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us 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.*

*Our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.*

## VOLUNTARY

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Isaac Watts;

First State Flute Choir

arr. Amy Rice-Young

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

**At the Lamb's High Feast**

Text: ELW 362



At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious king,  
Where the pas-chal blood is poured death's dread an-gel sheathes the sword;  
Might - y vic - tim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs be-neath you lie;  
Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, this a - lone can sin de - stroy!



who has washed us in the tide flow - ing from his wound-ed side.  
Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
You have con- quered in the fight, you have brought us life and light.  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, new-born souls in you to be.



Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred blood for wine,  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas-chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;  
Now no more can death ap-pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;  
Fath - er, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Gives his bod - y for the feast - Christ the vic-tim, Christ the priest.  
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man-na from a - bove.  
You have op - ened pa - ra - dise, and your saints in you shall rise.  
Spir - it, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise.

Text: Latin hymn, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Robert Campbell; music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

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

## **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

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

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Loving God, by your Spirit we are born anew, and you nourish us like newborns  
with this holy food, by which we grow into salvation. Give us grace to live as your  
risen daughters and sons, shining in this world with your marvelous light, until you  
gather all creation to the heavenly table where Christ reigns in glory forever.

**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 God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ,  
restore, support, strengthen, and ✠ bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing**

ELW 544 (harmony)

*Found on p.20*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Alleluia” from  
*Exultate Jubilate*  
First State Flute Choir

W. A. Mozart;  
arr. Michael Axtell



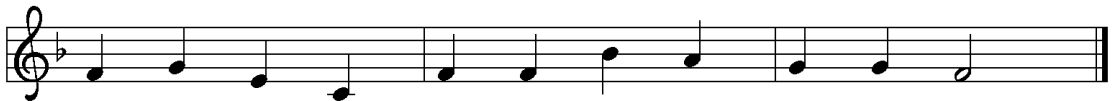
1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!  
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.  
 Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.  
 Text © Oxford University Press.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Linda Grund  
 Lectors: Meghan Tekelenburg and Lauren Baxter  
 Crucifer: Christine Therriault-Merkel  
 Bread Provider: Lynn Deschere  
 Altar Guild: Linda Radwick  
 Flower Guild: Keith Tyson



The flowers in the chancel are given  
to the glory and praise of God  
in honor of Vanessa Brussel's  
baptism by Heidi Burch.



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## AN ABUNDANT LIFE

Abundant life is promised to those who follow Jesus. But what is meant by abundant life? Some Christians, and much of contemporary American culture, interpret an abundant life to mean the “good life” of many fine things, an opulent lifestyle. Much of our economy and leisure time revolves around consumerism – shopping and buying things which we hope will make us happier and our lives better. But an abundance of things does not necessarily lead to an abundant life.

What does Jesus mean when he says that he came so that we may have an abundant life? Psalm 23 provides us with a good illustration of what Jesus is promising to his followers. The psalm imagines an abundant life not in material terms but in relational terms. An abundant life is one lived in the presence of God, in the company of the Lord. Whether one is in green pastures or the darkest valley, there is nothing to want, because God is present. We are in the gracious and generous care of our Lord through times of material abundance and in times of want and scarcity. This relationship between our Lord and us who are his followers is a relationship with one who knows us abundantly, who knows us by name, and who knows what we truly need to be fulfilled. The image of Jesus as our shepherd reminds us that he is with us at all times, and our relationship with him provides us all we need.

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

To some contemporary Christians, the image of Christ as shepherd appears outdated. Yet the continuing popularity of "Good Shepherd Sunday" and the tender psalm appointed for today begs the question, Why are moderns attracted to the shepherd? Is it not that we yearn for guidance, protection, and strength in a world that is filled with much chaos, violence, and fast-paced change? The readings this Sunday offer the image of our God as a shepherd: the one who guides us—not out of this world, but in and through it with staff and overflowing cup, with word and holy supper.

### WELCOME TO THE FSFC

We thank the First State Flute Choir for joining us in worship this morning. Their voluntaries are all from their spring concert, "Dancing into Spring," to be held here next **Sunday, May 3, at 4PM**. A freewill offering will be received, and a reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

### ADULT FORUM

When Paul Revere wanted to know how the British Regulars were going to march on Lexington and Concord, he watched for lanterns in the steeple of Old North Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Patrick Henry gave his "give me liberty or give me death" speech in a church in Richmond, Virginia. These aren't the only instances of the American Revolutionary War impacting or being impacted by churches, including Delaware churches! Beginning **Sunday, May 3**, we'll commence an examination of some of those churches as well as the impact the Revolution had on them and their congregations. Join in the fun, beginning at **8:30** in the Blue Room.

### ST. PAUL'S GAME NIGHT

Please join us on **Monday, May 4**, from **6 PM to 9 PM** for a Game Night. Bring your favorite card or board game to the Fellowship Hall for some friendly competition. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like.

## **OWLS - MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE**

On **Monday May 11**, we will explore the world of Jesus of Nazareth, learn about the Dead Sea Scrolls, delve into the history of The Bible. This is a full day trip - leaving at 7:30am and arriving home around 7pm. Cost is just \$29.99 for seniors (\$34.99 for owlets!) Lunch will be Dutch treat onsite at the Manna Restaurant. PLEASE RSVP to Linda Grund (lgrund923@gmail.com) by **Sunday, April 26**, to reserve your space. Cost for parking will be shared by all participants.

## **OWLS - SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE "JOSHUA"**

Please sign up now for the OWLS **Thursday, June 11**, trip to Sight and Sound for their new show "Joshua." Our group has reserved tickets on the first floor, close to the aisle, so we can see and hear all the action on the stage and in the aisles. We will carpool from the church, leaving at 9 AM. After the show, we'll be having lunch at a nearby restaurant. Tickets for Joshua are \$88.50 per person (special group rate). PLEASE RSVP to Linda Grund WITH PAYMENT NO LATER THAN **SUNDAY, APRIL 26**, and let us know if you are willing to drive or want a ride. Hope you can make it!!

## **COME, WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION!**

St. Paul's ministry of music and friends from the community will present a festival Easter concert on **Sunday, May 17, at 4PM**. Come enjoy our enhanced choir, handbell ensemble, and chamber orchestra as they offer anthems for the Easter season between "comments from the great cloud of witnesses." There will be opportunities for audience participation and voluntaries performed by a guest organist, as well. A freewill offering benefitting the Friends of Music fund will be received and a reception will follow.

## **DO MORE 24 DELAWARE**

St. Paul's participated in the Do More 24 Delaware fundraising event held on March 5-6, 2026. This event brings together nonprofits serving Delaware to raise money from online donations and event prizes or stretch pools from sponsors of this event. Thanks to your generosity we raised \$261.86!



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



**The Reverend Cris Frigm**

302-368-0064 ext. 103

*Pastor* ..... [pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

**Michael Bareham**

302-368-0064 ext. 105

*Director for Music and Worship* ..... [music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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*Office Administrator* ..... [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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**Dr. Rae Watts**

302-368-0064 ext. 201

*School Director* ..... [stpaulschool701@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulschool701@outlook.com)

**Church Council**

Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan (*Vice President*), Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*), Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

**Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast** - articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM to [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org). Late submissions will be shared the following week.



**Worship Attendance**



**Prayer Requests**



**Electronic Giving**



**Worship Assistants & Flower Dedications**

