



May 24, AD 2020
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
250 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408
www.saintpaul-trinity.org

(P=Pastor, AM=Assisting Minister, C=Congregation, *=please stand) (The order of service and several hymns are found in the green book –LBW, purple-W&P or in the blue book-WOV. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Organ Preludes

Chimes

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

Recognition of Intern Charles Mann and presentation of Congregational Gift

(During the prelude, anyone who would like to receive a special prayer and the laying on of hands may bring their concern with them and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive this blessing. At this time the pastor who is preaching today will also kneel for prayer and those who wish to assist in praying for the Holy Spirit to bring forth the Word of God are invited to lay their hands on as well.)

(acolytes light the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: I Know that My Redeemer Lives--Burkhardt

(During the prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Heavenly Father, as our nation pauses to remember those in the military who have given their lives for freedoms we enjoy including blessed Luke Runyan, we pray you would have us all look to you for strength, comfort and guidance. Be with all who serve in our Armed Forces including Dayne Brindle. Bless them and their families. Grant your loving protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let your mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving your past goodness on this country. Preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform as they defend our citizenry. Most of all, we pray that you would turn the hearts of all – military and civilian – to your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, take hold and treasure your saving grace. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and Your beloved Son, who alone gives this peace and hope for eternity, we pray. Amen.)

*Invocation and Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Please kneel or stand and observe Silence for self-reflection and confession)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all, your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Processional Hymn: **The Church's One Foundation LBW# 369**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the Word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms, rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forever-more; Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace, that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face!

Text: SamuelJ.Stone 1839-1900 Public Domain

*Apostolic Greeting §

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

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*The Prayer of the Day

P: O King of Glory and Lord of countless angels, in triumph you ascended to the highest heaven. Abandon us not to be orphans, but keep your Father's promise to send your Spirit of truth. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26

(As the disciples gather after Jesus' ascension, they have the task of choosing a replacement for Judas who was now dead. It must be one who was with them from Jesus' baptism to his resurrection. Two names are put forward: Justus and Matthias, with the lot falling to Matthias to be numbered among the original disciples.)

¹²Then {the disciples} returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about ¹²⁰) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms, 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and 'Let another take his office.' ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 68:1-10 (read responsively)

(The psalmist cries out that God will put an end to his enemies, but he will protect and lead those who praise his name. The God of Israel is the God who sojourns with his people through the desert, marching ahead of them in the wilderness, bringing them home.)

L:¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

C:²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

L:³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

C:⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him!

L:⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation!

C:6God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in dry places.

L:7O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

C:8The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

L:9You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; you refreshed the land when it was weary.

C:10Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

Second Lesson: **1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11**

(Peter reminds the Christians that they will surely share in the sufferings that Christ suffered. It is to be expected, so we should not at all be surprised when the tests and trials come like fire. Blessed are those who are insulted in the name of the Savior of the world; this degradation brings God's Spirit and glory to rest upon us.)

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Alleluia Verse

C: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: **John 17:1-11**

(Jesus prays what is known as his “high priestly prayer” in today’s gospel lesson. He and the Father are one, and so he asks that all believers would also be one. Jesus prays for all those whom God has given him, those who have kept his holy word. The unity he prays for is the unity of a shared, common faith that binds us together.)

1When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. 6I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. 10All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Sally Gausmann

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. I Peter 5:10

These are powerful lessons today. They are words from God that call our attention to his grace and glory, to the brevity of life, and to the strength that he provides for us while we wait for that day when we will be with him in our heavenly home. As we look at this teaching from St. Peter what might first catch our attention is the word suffering because that is something that has been on our minds lately. This virus has brought untold suffering around the world due to physical and economic hard times. Many people have gotten sick, many have died, and many have lost their jobs. This is a crisis that has affected us all. Because of the stay at home order virtually everyone has suffered in some way. Now of course when we talk about suffering, we always need to put things in perspective. While we don’t want to make light of anyone’s pain we have to realize that we can’t compare my inability to get my hair done with the suffering of someone who is wondering how to feed their family, or someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. We can’t compare our suffering through an hour of mask wearing to the suffering St. Peter calls to mind, the great suffering for the faith that has occurred throughout the world throughout the ages. We can’t compare missing church for these last 8 weeks with the suffering of the saints and martyrs who have been burned at the stake, fed to lions, imprisoned, beaten and beheaded for the sake of the gospel. This

weekend we also think of those who gave their lives for our country. The ripple effects of war are felt for generations. And of course, there is the terrible suffering and death of our perfect Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Whipped, mocked and crucified for no sin of his own, but for our sake.

But no matter if our suffering is great or small, one thing St. Peter wants us to realize is that it is for a little while. A little while, what does that mean? I was at a conference once where the speaker stood on a very large stage and he had a big rope and the rope extended from one end of the stage to the other and beyond, as the audience we couldn't see either end of the rope and then the speaker took a straight pin and put the straight pin in a tiny spot on this huge, long, almost unending rope and he said this is our lifetime – it is just a spot, a tiny spot in the context of eternity – that's a little while – our suffering and even our lifetime is just a little while in the light of God's eternity. Forever is a really long time – suffering, says St. Peter, is for a little while.

Okay so St. Peter is giving us perspective, but he is also giving us hope, hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Because he reminds us that we are dealing with a God of grace. God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the God of grace. He freely created us, he freely redeemed us, and he freely walks with us through this life. Eternal life is a free gift from the wounded body of our Savior. By his blood we have been set free from sin and death – forgiveness given free.

So just to review: All grace is from God; it is he who restores, converts, comforts, and saves us by his grace. All who are called into a state of grace are called to partake of eternal glory and happiness. Those who are called to be heirs of eternal life through Jesus Christ must, nevertheless, suffer in this world, but their sufferings will be but for a little while. And there is one more piece to this beautiful teaching. Yes, God is gracious to give us a future and to assure us that our suffering will be temporary. But our gracious God does one thing more. By the power of the Holy Spirit he is gifting us with strength for the here and now.

Specifically, St. Peter uses some great architectural language to help us see how God is building us up for the tasks at hand. First of all, he uses the word restore. Some of you have the talent of restoring old furniture, sanding it down, maybe painting or varnishing it in a way that it almost looks better than new. This is what God does with our lives, he mends what is broken but it's not my kind of mending – I follow in my earthly father's footsteps. My dad, Charles O'Connor, who was an Irishman himself, always said it was the Irishman's way, and so when something breaks I putty it together in a makeshift way to hopefully make it last for a little while. But when God fixes something he perfects it – better than new. That is new life in Christ – our sins forgiven and we are restored to our place as heirs of the King.

Restored and confirmed, St. Peter says. Confirming here means to make stable. Thanks be to God for this gift. Our world is very unstable – if it wasn't fractured before this virus it certainly is now – there is a great divide in our nation between political parties and ways of thinking. The devil is having a heyday at tearing us apart. But God is confirming us, bringing us together. Like fine brick work God is using us to build up his church as we support and encourage one another. This confirming is like the mortar in

the building – we are meant to be together and that is what God is doing for us, gathering us around his word and feeding us with his holy meal.

Restoring, confirming and strengthening us. What do you do to building materials to make sure they don't warp? This is the strengthening that God is providing. He is nourishing us with his word and sacrament so that our souls can be strengthened. We might have used this stay at home order to do some exercising to get or keep our bodies in shape. But hopefully we have also exercised our spiritual muscles – reading God's word, worshipping and praying. God wants us to be able to endure the trials of life with our faith in-tact – that's what Jesus is praying in His high priestly prayer that we hear from in the gospel of John today. He prays that we would work together, to be one in prayer and praise of God.

Restoring, confirming, strengthening and establishing. Establishing means God is giving us a great foundation. He is cementing the building so to speak. That's what he has done with Jesus – he is the solid rock, our firm foundation. When God establishes us it means we can rest securely because the building is well put together. We don't have to fret, wondering who is going to win this virus battle – we know the answer – God is! God is stronger than any virus and he who established us will keep us safe for eternity.

This is all God's work. The perfecting, establishing, strengthening, and settling, of fallen people in grace, and helping them to persevere in the faith, is such difficult work, that only the God of all grace can accomplish it; and therefore we do what Jesus so beautifully taught us to do – we pray. We pray in thanksgiving, we pray in repentance, we pray for help, we pray for others. We pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for him to do this amazing work among us.

Jesus' special prayer that we hear today is such an insight into prayer because it reminds us of what a blessing it is to be prayed for. If you have ever had someone pray for you by name in your presence it is an incredibly moving experience. That's why we have for the last couple of years offered prayer at the beginning of the worship service for anyone who wants to come forward for that special individual prayer because it brings such peace to our hearts to hear our name be lifted before our heavenly Father. And so we seek out God in prayer. We pray for one another and we pray that we would give ourselves over to this God of grace so that we learn more and more to depend upon his promises. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. I Peter 5:10 Amen.

*The Votum

*Hymn of the Day: **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus LBW# 158**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne; Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea. Public Domain

***The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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; With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

***The Prayers (Please respond "Hear our prayer.")**

Gracious God our voices are muffled but songs ascend, our fellowship is stifled but we are humbly gathered together, we long for more, but we are glad for what we are receiving as the gathered people of God. May this step in worship be a first step towards a more robust worship and a return to hum of activity and enthusiasm that normally characterizes our gathering as your church. We thank you for this blessed time and await your glorious return.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray most fervently for peace, for peace in homes where tempers are fragile and frustration great, for peace between those of opposing views, that sincere searches for the truth would land them on common ground, for peace between nations where conflicts rage and the threat of war is all too real. Your Son Jesus oh Lord is the Prince of Peace, may His realm be seen beyond the broken relationships of this fragile existence. Make us instruments of your peace for Jesus' sake.

Lord in your mercy...

Teach us oh Lord not to run from suffering but to learn from it, to see in it a reflection of your Son's cross and our calling to Christ like living. Give us strength of character in times of trial and a desire to lead the godly life above all earthly desires. Relieve the needless suffering which so many undergo as a result of awful human sin, and cause us to be compassionate in our response to the cries of hurting folks.

Lord in your mercy...

Oh what blessings we receive each day, what abundance of food we enjoy, what fine shelter we experience, what richness of Christian devotion we can partake of. May we not obsess on our safety nor carelessly neglect it, show us your way your way through this time. Grant healing to the ill including _____ and those we name silently or aloud before you now _____. Protect those who care for the sick and vulnerable and bless the work of medical researchers who so desperately want a cure for this pandemic.

Lord in your mercy...

Into your hands Oh Lord we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, .

C: Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you. (We share the peace with one another.)

Offertory:

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray...

All: Almighty God, you have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light making us disciples of your Son. Grant that all that we are and all that we have may be dedicated to you, and be used for the increase of your Kingdom. Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We praise You for our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sins and intercedes for us, presenting us to You as Your redeemed children by faith in His blood. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*The Sanctus

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Eucharistic Prayer #33

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*The Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

*P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays special music)

*Blessing,

*Post Communion Cantic:

All: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

*Recessional Hymn: **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name LBW# 328**

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, you martyrs of our God, who from his altar call, extol the stem of Jesse's rod and crown him Lord of all. Extol the stem of Jesse's rod and crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feed may fall! We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all

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P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Campra

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WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Those not receiving communion may come forward to receive a blessing. **If you have difficulty kneeling, please feel free to stand at the rail or if you have difficulty coming to the communion rail please inform the usher and communion will be brought to your pew.** Please join us again.

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS in loving memory of Cpl. Luke Runyan who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and for all men and women who have served and are presently serving, we say "thank you" and in honor of our children and their spouses & our grandchildren by the Steven Bahn family **BULLETIN** to the glory of God by John & Esther Jacobs **BREAD & WINE** in memory of my father, Harry McCurdy, by Faye Nace **DVD:** in loving memory of Howard C. Albright by Treva Albright **PARISH MESSENGER:** in loving honor of our grandchildren by John & Esther Jacobs **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in honor of our shut-in's by Ted & Norma Krebs

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR May Organ Fund

We are so thankful to have a beautiful sounding organ and an opportunity each week to hear that organ in use to the glory of God. Your donations to this fund enable upkeep and repairs to be done without having a major fund-raising drive. Thank you for your past and continued support. Please give as you are able to the organ fund this month in an envelope from the pew. Make checks payable to Saint Paul Lutheran Church to receive credit on your giving statement. Thank you for your support.



Tuesday May 26th, from 4:30- 7:00pm is Saint Paul's day to volunteer at Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. If you are able to give of your time, please contact Keith Bergey at 717-891-9963. Thank you!

Offering can also be given by mail or by using the PayPal on our Web site.

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OFFICE HOURS Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-2:00pm

DIRECTOR OF CYC Roxanne Donnan

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR Carol Moscony

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Carol Frey

MINI SEXTON Jack Hall

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

Activities for the week of May 24, 2020

Sun.	5/24	Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00am Divine Worship Service 10:45am Divine Worship Service
Mon.	5/25	Church Office Closed – Memorial Day
Wed.	5/27	11:00am Zoom Devotions 1:00pm -3:30pm Pastors' available for home communion
Thurs.	5/28	10:00am Zoom Bible Study 1:00pm -3:30pm Pastors' available for home communion 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study
Sat.	5/30	10:00 am Zoom Sunday School 2:00pm Virtual Graduation for Chuck Mann
Sun.	5/31	Eighth Sunday of Easter 9:00am Divine Worship Service 10:45am Divine Worship Service

Today is Chuck Mann's last Sunday of internship. We give thanks to God that we have had this opportunity to be a part of Chuck's training for the ordained ministry and we wish him well in his pursuit of a call. This coming Saturday there will be an opportunity to link into a virtual graduation – we'll be sending that out via e-mail. We also want to have more of a celebration with cake, etc. when more of the virus restrictions are lifted. If you can't greet Chuck today you can call, e-mail, mail or text him your best wishes.

Results from Worship and Music Committee Meeting on Worship Start-up Protocol May 13, 2020

Approved by Council on May 19, 2020 with slight amendment*

In thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to worship Him and in respect to the current government regulations the Worship and Music Committee is recommending the following procedure for opening up the church for worship once we are in the Yellow Phase.

Worshippers are asked to sit in the center of the pew occupying only every third pew (pews numbered one for first service and numbered two for second service.) This allows for social distancing and also will help to limit the people in our worship space to less than 25.

*Worshippers are asked to wear masks, removing them only when they are at the communion station in the front of the church.

Worshippers are asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and before and after receiving communion. Sanitizer stations will be available throughout the building and small containers will be in the pews.

Worshippers are asked to refrain from shaking hands and use the social distancing protocol that is advised by the government.

Worshippers are asked to use only the new front entrance for entering the building, following the direction of the greeter to allow space between those entering.

Worshippers are asked to use multiple doors for exiting the building to help disperse the "crowd" in various direction.

We will need at least 5 ushers for each service to help welcome and give direction to the worshippers.

Communion will be offered by the pastors only, with handwashing beforehand and minimal touching. The individual wine glasses will be prefilled and spaced apart so that those coming forward can pick up their own glass from a tray held by one of the pastors or an assistant who is masked. We will use wafers rather than bread at this time.

Live streaming will be used if there is overflow crowd in the various rooms with screens.

The order for seating will be:

First the sanctuary. When it reaches 25 then the narthex and library will be used with space available there for an additional 6 groupings*. *A grouping is a family of one or more people.*

After that we will use the Fellowship Hall.

If there is overflow in the Fellowship Hall one pastor can be there for the Consecration and distribution of communion. There is room for 25 worshippers in Fellowship Hall.

If there is still a need for additional space, we have room for 10 more groupings* in the various rooms with screens in the new addition.

Worship and Music Committee and Council members with training will serve as Greeter/ushers.

The only other lay responsibility at this time will be a lay reader and possibly an assisting minister to help with the wine if the Fellowship Hall is used for overflow.



TAKING FAITH HOME – May 24, 2020 AD

**These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.**

Sunday John 17:1-11 Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday John 3:31-36 The Son and the Father
Tuesday John 8:21-30 Jesus speaks of going to the Father
Wednesday Ephesians 4:1-6 Keep the unity of the Spirit
Thursday 1 Peter 3:8-12 Live in harmony
Friday Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul prays for the Ephesians
Saturday Psalm 17:1-9 O God, hear my prayer
Sunday Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for God cares about you. “
1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, we give all our worries to you. Help us rest easy in your care. Amen.
(1 Peter 5:7)

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for loving us, feeding us, and caring for us. Your praises we shout
and your name we bless. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God always keep you safe. May God keep your faith in Jesus strong, and give you
eternal life. Amen. (John 17:1-3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious or worried? What calms you down?
- The apostle Peter encourages us not to be too proud to give our worries to God,
because God cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Think of a time when you gave your worries to
God.
- What worries or concerns can you give over to God now?

DEVOTIONS

Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that his God would protect them, and that they would be united. In your home devotional times this week, give special focus to praying for your Christian friends. Contact them by phone or email to inquire about their prayer needs and include these in your household prayer times.

SERVICE

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send to them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 (“Give all your worries and cares to God, for God cares about you”). Sign the card as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather a set of index cards and punch holes into the top two corners. Using the holes, attach thread or string to the cards. During this week, invite household members to write their worries onto the cards and symbolically give them over to God by hanging them onto a wall hook in your home. Write or print out the words of 1 Peter 5:7 and post the words next to the hook.

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: In gratitude for those who have given their lives in defense of the nation, for an end to this pandemic, and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.



Please call the Pastors if you or a loved one are in the hospital, we do not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation’s name, and we want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!