



**May 2, 2021 AD**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**8:15 am**

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA 17408  
[www.saintpaul-trinity.org](http://www.saintpaul-trinity.org)

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 AD

### (Also commemoration of Saint Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Confessor)

(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.)

#### Gathering Music

Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Temple Talk: Organ Fund – Deb Shue

(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: Almighty God, thank you for bringing us together to hear the powerful news of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Change my heart today so that I may be more alive with this good news and more eager to share it with others by the power of your Holy Spirit working in my life through Christ I pray. Amen.)

\*Invocation and Confession and forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

P: This is our Father's world and he wishes us to live in right relationship to Him, praising his holy name, abiding in His love, serving as workers in this his world, his vineyard. Yet sin has entered into our world and into our lives, causing disharmony and damage to his creation. Acknowledging our sin, we confess it to him, knowing that he hears us and heals our brokenness.

*(Please kneel or stand and observe silence for self-reflection and examination.)*

P: Gracious God

**C: We confess that we have been too casual in our relationship to You. We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy, poured out on us in Holy Baptism. We have not appreciated the gravity of our sins, the sacrifice of Christ for us, and the utter grace which You offer in your full and free forgiveness. We have not recognized your pruning, your discipline of us, as the loving action it truly is. By Your Holy Spirit, increase in us true devotion to Your will and a desire to bear fruit worthy of Your holy name. Forgive us, restore us, and set our feet on the path of true discipleship in Jesus' name. Amen.**

P: In the Epistle St. John wrote, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. . . . By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." (1 John 4:10, 13.) God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus' death on the cross, granting us new life in him who is now risen from the dead. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn:

315

# Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful  
breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy  
ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy  
be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee  
Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

\*Apostolic Greeting and Easter Proclamation §

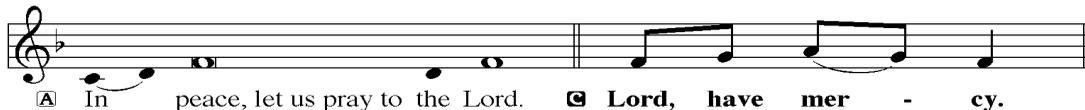
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

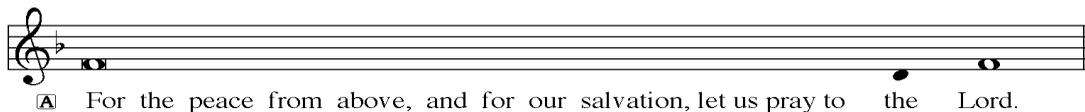
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

\*The Kyrie p. 57



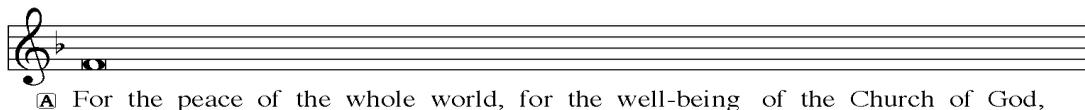
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



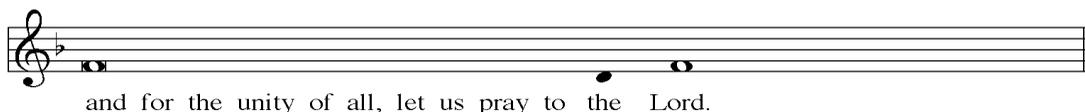
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



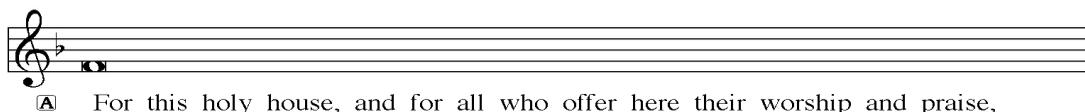
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



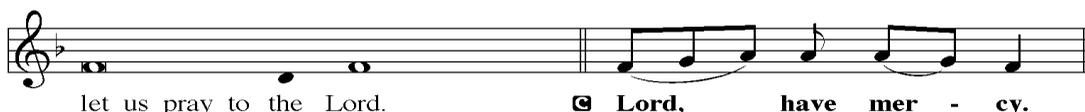
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men



☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

\* Salutation

p. 62

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al- so with you.

\*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. O God of truth and mercy, You upheld Your servant Athanasius to confess with boldness the Christian faith against all hostility and resistance. Uphold Your Church that trusts solely in the grace of Your eternal Word, who took upon Himself our humanity that we might share His divinity, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40**

(Philip's journey led him to a road between Jerusalem and Gaza where he encountered an Ethiopian man reading Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. Philip seized the opportunity to explain the Scripture to him and preached the Good News of new life in Christ. This spontaneous conversation led to the baptism of the Ethiopian man.)

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And

he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 150** (Read responsively by whole Verse)

(Praise the Lord in all ways, in all places, and at all times, the psalmist wrote: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.")

L:<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.

**C:<sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness.**

L:<sup>3</sup>Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn; praise him with lyre and harp.

**C:<sup>4</sup>Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.**

L:<sup>5</sup>Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

**C:<sup>6</sup>Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**Second Lesson: 1 John 4:1-21**

(John urged his audience to test the spirits to ensure they are from God. If a person couldn't confess Christ as Lord, then they were of the world, not of God. Actions that display love are the hallmark of divine love, he wrote. No matter how eloquently we speak of love, if our actions are the antithesis of our words, then God's love is not in us. We are able to live such lives of love only as a response to the love God has first lavished upon us.)

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has

been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon: Pastor Sally

\*Alleluia Verse+ (sung)

p. 62

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics.

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 15th<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

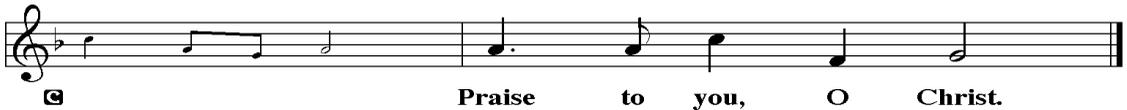
The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

(Jesus used the familiar image of a vine to describe the nature of our dependent relationship with him. Referring to himself as the true vine that gives life to and supports the entirety of the bush, Jesus declared that nothing good can be done apart from his life-giving presence.)

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Paul  
\*The Votum



\*Hymn of the Day:

210

# At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we him, whose love di - vine Gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal

our vic - to - rious king, Who has washed us  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives his bod - y  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri -  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i -

in the tide Flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
for the feast— Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
um-phiant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
ty and love Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

\*The Nicene Creed

**All: 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.") p. 65

**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: O God, Beyond All Praising--Ignatowski

\*Offertory Response: pg. 66 (or as below)

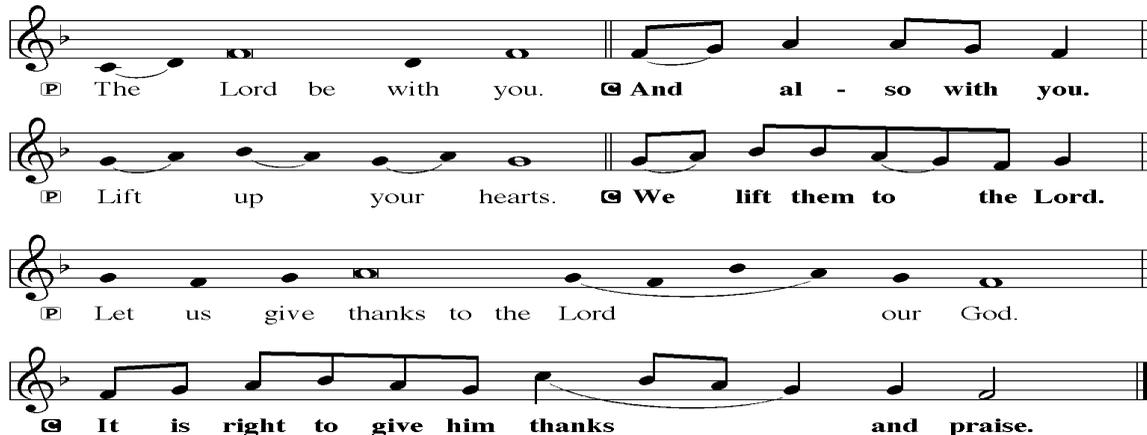
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*The Great Thanksgiving



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

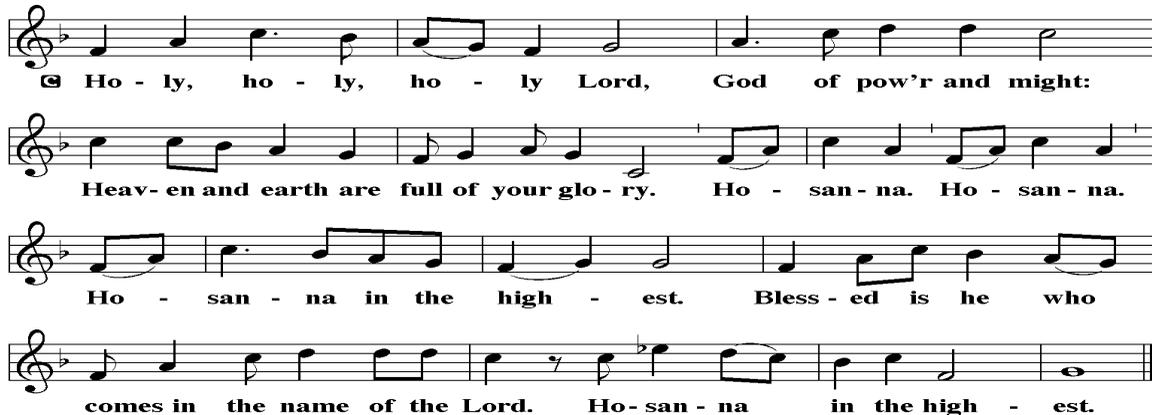
☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

\*Preface:

P: § It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.



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

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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: §

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to call upon You with all boldness and confidence. Gathered at Your Table, grant that we receive Your body and blood, fully trusting in Your promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ the Vine that we live as fruitful branches and finally grant us a foretaste of the feast to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

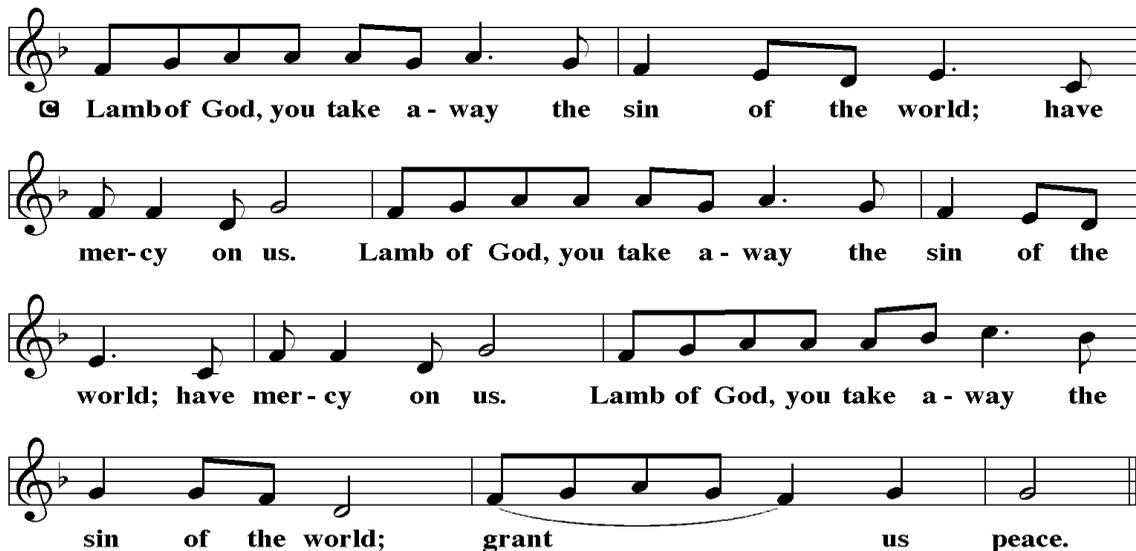
\*The Words of Institution p. 69

\*The Lord's Prayer, p. 71

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, p. 72



☐ 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.

Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays music while we commune)

\*Blessing, p. 72

\*Post Communion Canticle p. 72 (or as below)



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Post Communion Prayer: §

P: Let us pray:

**C: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have strengthened our faith through this Sacrament. Go with us now so that we may live out this day as fruitful branches of the Vine, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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:

260

# On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther Joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; Van - quished is the foe.  
Un - to God the Sav - ior Thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
Un - to God the Spir - it Bow we and a - dore,

Who, if we be faith - ful, Can our hope de - stroy?  
On our way re - joic - ing Now and ev - er - more.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system includes two vocal parts. The key signature is G major, and the time signature is 4/4.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; As we for - ward move,

Hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

*Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.  
Tune: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879*

HERMAS  
65 65 65 D

\*Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Choral Song--Wesley

**Theme of the Day:** There is power in Jesus' name, as is seen through the healing of a lame beggar. The power to heal did not come from Peter and John, but from God alone. The disciples were simply instruments of God's wondrous works among the people. John reminded us in his first letter that we are all adopted into the family of God, which makes us bearers of the good news of Christ and instruments of his awesome power.

**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and sharing 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. Please join us again.

**SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:00am-2:30pm, Fri 8:00-12 noon

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INTERIM CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube [CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org)

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

**SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of Warren Adams by daughter Glenda Smith & brother Wayne Adams **BULLETIN** by Esther & John Jacobs **BREAD & WINE** in loving memory of Randy & Betty Nace by the family **MAILING** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Earl W. Mann by Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Mann **PARISH MESSENGER** in loving honor of our grandchildren by John & Esther Jacobs / in memory of Delores by Carl Smyser **SANCTUARY LAMP** in honor of shuts ins by Ted & Norma Krebs

**Our Lord's Helpers this week:**

**Greeter:** John & Linda Sherman

**Acolyte:** Danny Tamminga

**Head Usher:** Lawrence Smyser

**Sound:** Allison Hostetler

**Lay Reader:** Larry Rinehart

**Altar Guild:** Todd & Lori Krebs

**Activities for the Week of May 2, 2021**

Sun. 5/2 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
**8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion**  
9:30 am Faith Builders  
**10:30 am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion**

Tues. 5/4 7:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting  
7:00 pm Girl Scouts  
7:00 pm AA

Weds. 5/5 11:15 am-2:00 pm Harvest of Hope

Thurs. 5/6 9:30 am Pastors Text Study-Camp Hill

Fri. 5/7 7:00 pm AA

Sun. 5/9 Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mothers' Day  
**8:15am Divine Service with Holy Communion**  
9:30am Faith Builders  
**10:30am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion**

## BIBLE STUDY

One of the enriching features of church life is our common desire to delve further into the Holy Scriptures. **In April, we began a study on Ephesians that will continue through May. Ephesians is a letter that encourages us to be united, despite our difference, because of our oneness in Christ. St. Paul guides us away from false teachings and toward Jesus our one true guide for life.** Join us in person or by Zoom on Thursdays, the morning session is held here at the church in the Parlor at 10AM, the evening Zoom session is held at 7PM, the invitation to which will be sent via e-mail. The Bible Sessions will be held on May 13, 20 and 27.

**CYC is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year** for both the 3 and 4-year-old classes. Children need to be either 3 or 4 by the 1st of September. Registration can be done through [saintpaultrinity.org](http://saintpaultrinity.org), the CYC webpage, [cycpreschool.com](http://cycpreschool.com), or by calling the church office and requesting a registration form. The 3-year old's meet 3 days a week from 9:00-12:00 and the 4-year old's meet 5 days a week from 9:00-2:00. Tuition for the 3's is \$135/ month and for the 4's it is \$270/month - both with a nonrefundable registration fee of \$20.00.

**Women of the Word** is planning to meet on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 1:00 pm. We will continue our Bible study "*Living for Jesus*". Brenda Shorts will lead our study "*Behold in Him*". We invite all ladies to join us. We will use the same protocols that are in place at that time for meetings (masks, social distancing). Hope to see you there!

### Join us for a fun time around the Campfire!

#### Where: The Back yard!

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA

**When:** May 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm

**What:** Hot dogs, chips, watermelon and SMORES!

AND: Devotions, Singing, Yard Games, FUN

WHO: YOU!! And friends and family

RSVP: May 16, [pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org](mailto:pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org)



### Other upcoming events:

June 28 Harvest of Hope lunch project

July 5-9 Servants

July 18-22 Vacation Bible School



**ARE YOU READY FOR THIS...**

**COME ON, LET'S DO THIS...TOGETHER...OUTSIDE IN THE FRESH AIR...**

**IT'S TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND BIBLE STUDY...**

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS !!!**

**Starting** Sunday, June 6 through August 1 (but not July 4) from 6-8 pm, a **NEW** Bible study will begin outdoors at 4 different homes (all very near to our church)!

Connie Dunklebarger, Lori Smyser, Sue Dickensheets, and Joyce Hall have accepted God's call to lead this Bible study for 8 weeks at their homes (2 weeks each home), outside, in the open air! Awesome, right?

**JESUS IN ME** Bible Study is authored by Anne Graham Lotz (daughter of Billy Graham). We will learn and grow through this study to understand that the **Holy Spirit** is not a magic genie, a flame of fire, or a vague feeling. He is a Person who prays for us, guides us in our relationships and decision, comforts us in pain, and stays by our side at all times! How cool is that....to know that the **Holy Spirit** is our constant companion!

Now you know, **you don't want to miss** this opportunity to dive into this Bible study, get outside in the evening, fellowship with friends, have a few refreshments, and maybe even sing a song!! **Are you getting excited!!!**

Here's what you need:

- \* A **JESUS IN ME** STUDY GUIDE (\$10)
- \* Your Bible
- \* A pencil or pen
- \* a lawnchair

So, here's your chance...get on board, sign up now and get ready for June 6th!!!

**OUTDOORS, FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, REFRESHMENTS, SONGS...OH PRAISE THE LORD, IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!!!!**

CALL Connie Dunklebarger AT 717-225-1310 OR 717-487-0492 to say **YES, COUNT ME IN!!**

**OUR DAILY BREAD:** Our dessert for May is carrot cake cupcakes with white frosting. We need 30 doz. by **9:00 am, Friday, May 21st**. If you can make some cupcakes, please sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Jean Strine. Thank you!





**Pentecost GERANIUM SALE**

**\$5.00 per plant. Order deadline is May 9<sup>th</sup>.** Please place the order form in the offering plate; Contact person is Sue Dickensheets (717-792-0359). **Geraniums can be picked up after** both church services on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Note: There will be no extra geraniums available. **Please do not remove plants before services.**

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Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of (circle one please)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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By \_\_\_\_\_

## Sermon Notes for May 2, 2021

<sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

-1 John 4:16

We are living through a time when many people feel cut off:

Cut off from each other physically due to health concerns.

Cut for each other through sharp political differences.

Cut off from normal routines that have brought stability to their lives.

The Gospel for the day is set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending suffering and death yet he is assuring the disciples that they can abide in Him.

Abiding in Him is not primarily about what we do but rather a reflection of the love he has manifested towards us. To abide means to remain in, Jesus is urging his followers to simply remain with Him, he who is the Word made flesh, who will always be with us and in us through Holy Communion.

All of us know the pain of separation from ones we love, how when they are absent we feel a part of ourselves is missing also. In the second lesson we hear that we are from God, our origins are with him we are not primarily from a worldly place but from God. We are meant to abide in Him, as Saint Augustine famously and prayerfully stated, "Our Heart is Restless Until It Rests in You." Christ is alive, he is here for us, he has defeated sin and death, "nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Certainly, the Ethiopian must felt cut off, cut off from family life, cut us from full acceptance into the Jewish faith he observed. But then God sent Him the Apostolic Word and the Ethiopia was granted faith in Jesus Christ and became a part of this ever expanding Church family, he found His place of belonging. So have we through the grace of God. Amen.

Listening for the Promise  
Weekly Devotional May 2, 2021 — Fifth Sunday of Easter  
“Philip...told him the good news about Jesus.”  
- Acts 8:35 -

The good news of the resurrection, that God defeated death, sin, and the devil by raising the crucified Jesus from the dead, leaps over all boundaries and overcomes all obstacles. Nothing can prevent the love of Jesus Christ for us from calling all to himself. Baptism is a tangible and visible activity of the Holy Spirit in the relentless reach of God's salvation for the world.

One might think that it would be enough for the crucified Jesus to rise from the dead and then return to his fearful disciples and show himself to them. In that way their faith could be confirmed in him and see tangible proof that he is indeed the Son of God. Sorry, but that is not the case, it is not the end of the story, it is merely the beginning. Jesus, not only defeats death, but he immediately moves into the whole world. And not only that, Jesus enlists and commissions his disciples (and us too!) to move into the world in his name.

By the work of the Holy Spirit, somebody has to say something. Somebody has to preach and somebody has to explain the scriptures (vs. 30-31) to those who have not yet heard the good news. There are those, like the eunuch, that need to hear about the Holy Spirit breaking into the world, reaching out and embracing those who have not yet heard the truth of who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Tradition has said that the eunuch went back home and founded the church of Ethiopia. This church has endured centuries of persecution and is still spreading the good news of Jesus into the world. What if Philip had stayed home instead of going into the desert? What if you stay home? Who will go and tell?

Let us pray: O God, we give you thanks not only for baptism, but for the Holy Spirit. We ask that your Spirit would shake us up and move us out from the confines of the church building. Nothing holds your Spirit back; let nothing hold us back. Bring to our limited minds awareness of all those who are in need of hearing the good news of your love for them. Help us to become engaged in your mission so that your will is done and your name may be known throughout the world. Amen.

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## TAKING FAITH HOME – May 2, 2021 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 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Hebrews 10:32-11:1	The certainty of faith
Tuesday	Jude 1:17-23	Be merciful to those who doubt
Wednesday	Isaiah 53:1-5	By his wounds we are healed
Thursday	1 John 1:8-9	God forgives sins
Friday	Isaiah 26:1-4, 12-19	God gives peace
Saturday	Psalms 29	God's people blessed with peace
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Eating with the risen Christ

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:** If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away. 1 John 1:8-9 (CEV)

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, please lead us through our doubts to stronger faith in you. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, thank you for your good gifts. Unite us as we gather together. Make us one with you and one another. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:** May the risen Lord Jesus give you peace. May your faith in him stay strong. Amen.

**CARING CONVERSATION:** Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt close to those in your household, or to another group of people.
- 1 John 1:3-4 speaks about "fellowship." What is fellowship? What does it mean to have fellowship with God?
- How does our fellowship with God give us fellowship with other people? Share some examples from your own life.

**DEVOTIONS:** 1 John 1:9 tells us of God's wonderful forgiveness. In your home devotion time this week, confess your sins together and celebrate God's grace given through Jesus.

**Words of Confession:** All say together: Almighty God, we admit that we are sinners. We have sinned against you and others by what we have thought, said and done. We ask for your mercy. Please be kind to us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** A leader says: *The Bible says that if we think that we have not sinned we are fooling ourselves. But if we admit our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us. God has been kind to us. He has given his only Son Jesus to die for us, and we are forgiven because of him. We can go in peace. Amen.*

Give each other hugs or handshakes as a sign of God's forgiveness.

**SERVICE:** Acts 4:32-34 says that the first followers of Jesus shared their belongings with one another and made sure that all those in their community were cared for. Is there someone in your community who is in need at this time – socially, emotionally or physically? Plan a way you can respond to that need as a household.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:** What does your household stand for? What gives your household a sense of togetherness or unity? Take time out to discuss these questions with each other. Then, design a Household Shield or Household Logo, incorporating symbols that reflect your household's unique identity and purpose. You may wish to include reference to a Bible verse, such as Psalm 133:1. Place your finished shield or logo design in a prominent place. Use it to help you remember what is most important in your home life. © 2011 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved. Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.

**People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:** For those who face difficult decisions in caring for loved ones, that they may be guided by God in their deliberations. For the spread of the faith that many who now live in despair, may find hope in the Gospel and for those mentioned today including \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

