

May 9, 2021 AD
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
8:15 am

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

May 9, 2021 AD

Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:15 am

*(P=Pastor, C=congregation, *= stand, the songs are in the green LBW, blue WOV or purple book W&P. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)*

Gathering Music

Welcome, Announcements and Joys and Concerns

Prelude: Allegro--Boyce

(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: O Almighty God, who did send forth Your Son to be born of a woman, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and who by His holy incarnation did in truth cause her to be the very Mother of God, thereby crowning and honoring all motherhood, grant Your perpetual favor and blessing upon all of our mothers, that they in turn may be a blessing to all their children. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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: God, of love:

C: We confess that we are born immersed in the corruption of this world. As we grow and develop, we cannot help but be willingly infected by this world's greed, lust, and pride. Violence is all around us and within us, and it threatens to overwhelm us. We ask You to heal us for Jesus' sake with Your love and forgiveness.

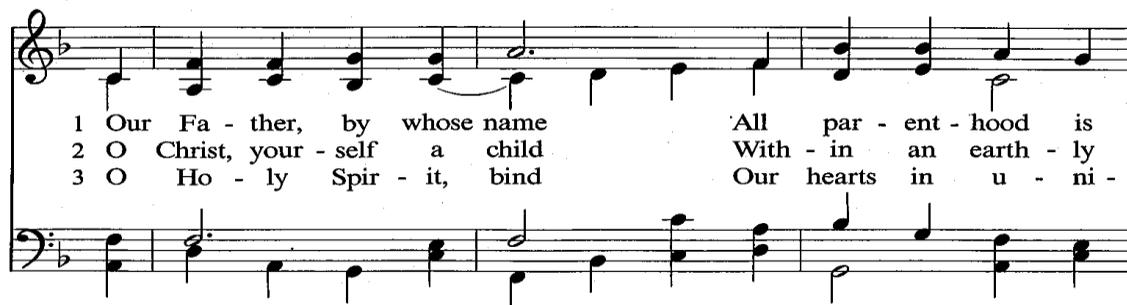
P: God hears your confession and speaks to each of you His healing Word of forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

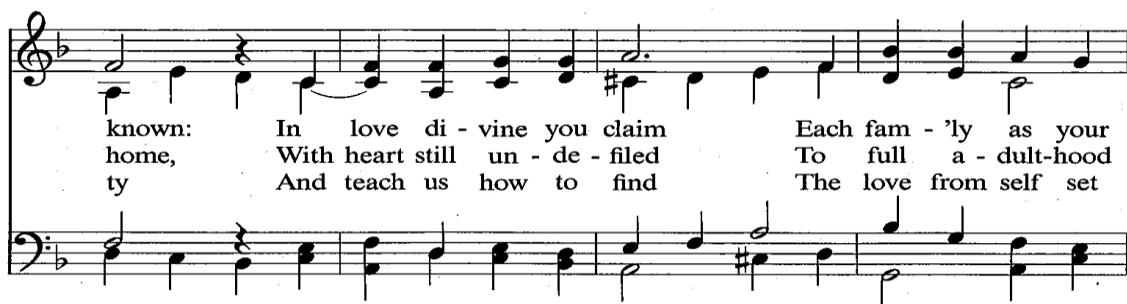
*Opening Hymn:

Our Father, by Whose Name

357



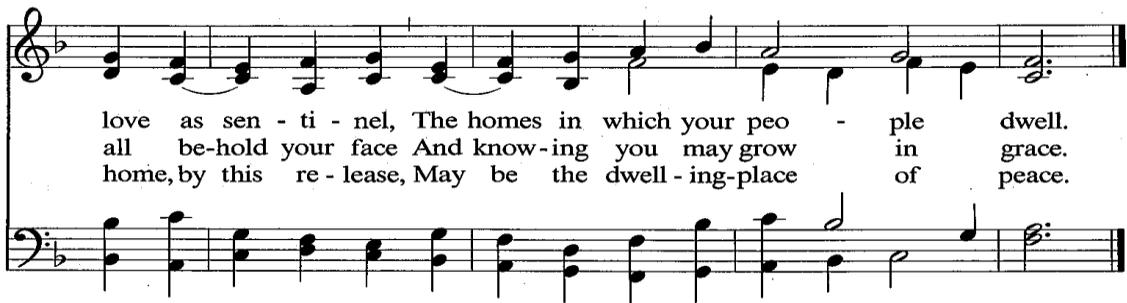
1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name All par - ent - hood is
2 O Christ, your - self a child With - in an earth - ly
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind Our hearts in u - ni -



known: In love di - vine you claim Each fam - 'ly as your
home, With heart still un - de - filed To full a - dult-hood
ty And teach us how to find The love from self set



own. Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, With con - stant
come: Our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place That they may
free; In all our hearts such love in - crease That ev - 'ry



love as sen - ti - nel, The homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
all be - hold your face And know - ing you may grow in grace.
home, by this re - lease, May be the dwell - ing - place of peace.

*Apostolic Greeting and Easter Proclamation §

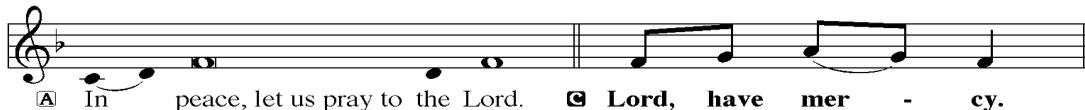
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

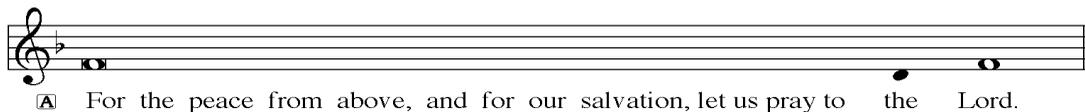
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*The Kyrie p. 57



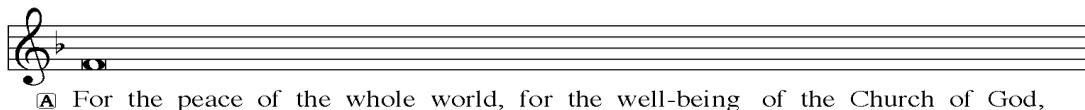
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



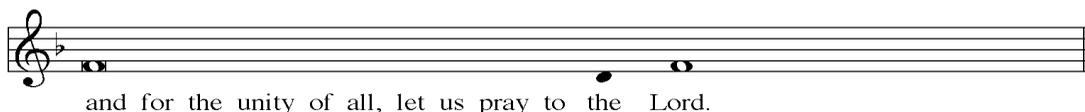
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



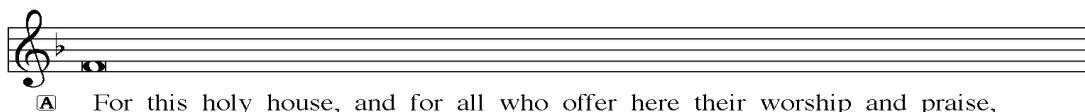
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



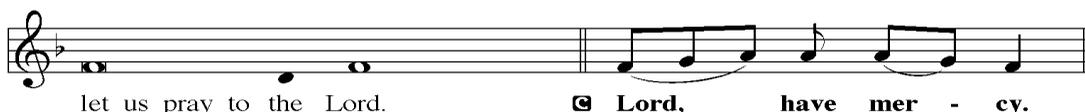
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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, all good things can come from you alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: **Acts 10:34-48**

(Peter spoke to Cornelius of the Good News, telling him the story of Jesus beginning with John the Baptist and then all that the apostles had seen and witnessed while following Jesus. Peter then announced that God's invitation to believe and follow was meant for all people. His impassioned preaching led many to faith.)

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put

him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” ⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 98

(Sing to the Lord a new song, the psalmist instructed, and tell of his mighty deeds throughout the earth, how he has not forgotten his people. God will come to set the earth right, to make all things new. God will establish righteousness in all the earth.)

L:¹Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

C:²With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

L:³The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

C:⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

L:⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

C:⁶Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

L:⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

C:⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

L:⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

C:¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-8

(John brought the message of love back to the commandments. The way by which we will love our neighbors, the children of God, is by keeping the commandments God has given us. Yet again, John portrayed love as a concrete way of life rather than empty words.)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is

the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is he who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon: Pastor Paul

*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 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia verse, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 15thth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of a few notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

(Jesus called his followers to live a life grounded in love by abiding in his love. His declaration was that we remain in his love by keeping his commandment. The commandment was both simple and complex: Love one another as Christ has loved us. Jesus called his followers “friends” and told them to love one another.)

⁹{Jesus said,} “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of a few notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sermon: Pastor Sally

*The Votum

*Hymn of the Day: **I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry WOV 770**

*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: The Gift of Love--Diemer



*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.

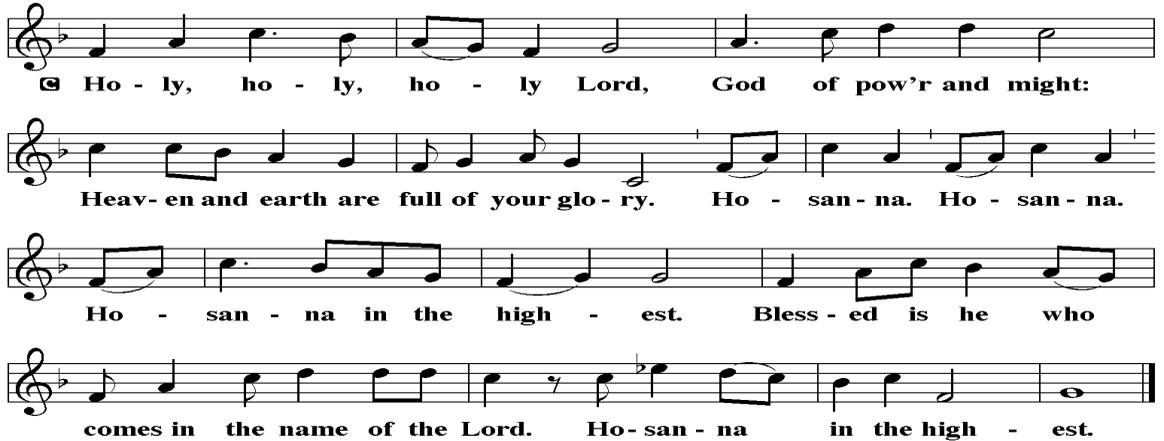
*The Great Thanksgiving

☩ 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 indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses to 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 §

*The Sanctus



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, Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. He it is who has bestowed on us life and health and salvation through His innocent suffering and death and His victorious resurrection. Gathered now on this Lord's Day and in His name, we ask that Your Holy Spirit keep us strong in the full Gospel message of life in Your name so that we may welcome our Lord under bread and wine, receiving thereby the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come through His body and blood

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 loving others as you have first loved us through 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:

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

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1 I love your king - dom, Lord, The place of your a - bode;
2 I love your Church, O God! Its walls be - fore you stand,
3 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
4 Sure as your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n

The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.
Dear as the ap - ple of your eye And grav - en on your hand.
Its sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
The bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

*Dismissal

AM: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Rigaudon--Campra

Theme of the Day: Our world is filled with many who feel unloved and overlooked. To love one another is to abide in the love of Christ, who first loved us. Without his love, we are incapable of loving one another — but with his love, we show the world what love really is: obedience to the Lord, a sacrificial existence, a sharing of all things good and right. The love of Christ overcomes the shallow, selfish, fleeting ways of the world.

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

250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 792-1650

PASTORS Rev. Sara “Sally” Gausmann e-mail: pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone: 717-487-1790

Rev. Paul Gausmann

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ADMIN ASST: Jean Strine

Church office: 717-792-1650

E-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org

Website: www.saintpaultrinity.org

WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony

musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey

financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

INTERIM CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

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

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of my mother, Betty McCurdy by Faye Nace **BULLETIN** in honor of our grandchildren by Gary & Dot Mann **BREAD & WINE** in memory of Minnie Hoffman & Ruth Keech by Ira & Gloria Keech **MAILING** in loving memory of our mother, Janet Smyser & our grandmothers, Beulah Lockman & Anna Smyser by the children **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: Sandy Bender

Acolyte: Wyatt Myers

Altar Guild: Diane Workman

Head Usher: Al Dickensheets

Sound: Olivia Jones

Lay Reader: Shawn Myers

Congratulations to the Turnbaugh Family! They welcomed a sweet baby girl, Aila Grace into the world on April 25th.

The Mother's Day carnations are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all mothers and women who mother someone.

There will be no bible study class today in the quilters room. Class will resume May 16th.

Activities for the Week of May 9, 2021

- Sun. 5/9 Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am Faith Builders
10:30 am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion
- Mon. 5/10 6:00 pm Youth & Family Meeting
7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting
7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting
- Tues. 5/11 6:00 pm Property Meeting
7:00 pm Council Meeting
7:00 pm Girl Scouts
7:00 pm AA
- Weds. 5/12 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting
- Thurs. 5/13 10:00 am Bible Study
5:00 pm Pizza
6:00 pm Ascension of Our Lord Worship Service
7:15 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
- Fri. 5/14 7:00 pm AA
- Sun. 5/16 Seventh Sunday of Easter / Church Music Sunday
8:15am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30am Faith Builders
10:30am Outdoor Service with Holy Communion

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. Make checks payable to Saint Paul Lutheran Church to receive credit on your giving statement. Current fund balance is \$675. Thank you for your support!



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, the CYC webpage, 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



Other upcoming events:

June 28 Harvest of Hope lunch project

July 5-9 Servants

July 18-22 Vacation Bible School



Pentecost GERANIUM SALE

\$5.00 per plant. Order deadline is May 9th. 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 23rd.** Note: There will be no extra geraniums available. **Please do not remove plants before services.**

Total enclosed _____ Check No. _____

In memory/honor of (circle one please)

By _____

Sermon Notes for May 9, 2021

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.” I John 5:4

What are the things that tend to overwhelm us?

- Major things: Health issues, Financial problems, Relationship breakdowns
- Minor things: Traffic jams, Grocery store lines, Too many irons in the fire

Scripture points to the cause:

- The devil - Any time that the devil can get us to think something is right that God has forbidden, he celebrates our downfall.
- The World - The world is busy right now trying to get us to divide up along party lines, or racial lines.
- Our own sinful selves - Sometimes we don't need someone else tempting us, we just do it ourselves – jealousy, self-pity, pride, etc.

But St. John has some good news for us – we are overcomers. The devil, the world and our own sinful selves might feel like it is all piling down on us, but we have a God who is always about making a pathway in the desert.

We are in an ongoing celebration of the Good News that Jesus has overcome – sin, death and the devil through his blessed suffering and death and his glorious resurrection. Of course, since we are baptized into his death and resurrection that victory is also ours.

- The devil tries to overwhelm us with evil, but St. Paul teaches us in Romans 12 that through Christ we can overcome evil with good.
- When the world wants to divide us according to political or ethnic or economic lines, we remember that God shows no partiality.
- It's not easy to battle our sinful desires but St. John says that the key is our faith – this is the vital piece of the puzzle. We can only be overcomers in the face of overwhelming situations when we put our trust in Jesus.

Look at the account of Hezekiah in 2 Kings as he is tormented by Sennacherib the king of Assyria. Hezekiah did not have to lift a finger, all he had to do was lift holy hands in prayer.

We may not see such a powerful answer to prayer in the midst of the whirlwinds of our lives, but we do see over and over again, God shining his light in the darkness.

St. John goes on to say – who is it that overcomes the world – the one who believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So, our response to the devil, the world and our own sinful selves must be this one recurring theme: I believe Lord, help my unbelief. (see Mark 9)

There is a song that is entitled “The Battle belongs to the Lord.” Its words set to music can help us to remember that when we feel overwhelmed – when the devil, the world and our own sinful selves seem to be dragging us down – we need to look to Jesus, he is the ultimate overcomer – who will lead us in love and mercy to new life and life eternal.



TAKING FAITH HOME – May 9, 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 15:9-17 Love one another

Monday John 13:31-35 A new command

Tuesday Romans 12:9-21 Love with sincerity

Wednesday Philippians 2:1-4 Be one in spirit and purpose

Thursday Acts 10:44-48 Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Friday Ephesians 1:15-23 Jesus, seated at the Father's right hand

Saturday Psalm 98 Sing to the Lord a new song

Sunday John 17:6-19 Christ's prayer for his disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

This is my command: Love each other (**John 15:17**).

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

O God, help us to remember the command of your Son, Jesus, "I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13.35).

Mealtime Prayer:

We gather to give thanks for all our blessings. Give us faith, O God, to live your way and always share your love. And we remember _____, the family we are praying for this week. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God surround you with love, and fill your heart with compassion for others. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about someone who has been a good friend to you. What has made them a good friend?
- Jesus calls us his "friends." How has Jesus been a friend to us?
- How do you show that you are one of Jesus' friends? (See John 15:14-16).

DEVOTIONS:

As part of your household devotion time this week, sing together the classic hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Joseph Scriven, 1855). Below are the words for the first two verses. After singing, discuss how the lyrics of the hymn apply to you.

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O, what peace we often forfeit, O, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

SERVICE:

Choose a family to pray for this week. Remember them at each meal. Send a card telling them that you have been praying for them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Jesus says “Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:12). Try some of these ways to say “I love you” to one another:

- Write “I love you” notes and place them in surprising places (e.g. in school lunchboxes, under pillows or plates, in purses or wallets).
- Place a favorite flower or a small treat on the seat of a car before someone leaves for school or work.
- Leave an “I love you” message on an answering machine or computer screen saver, or send an “I love you” text message.
- Make heart-shaped coupons to give to one another (e.g. for a shoulder massage, an extra storybook reading, a walk or play together, a cuddle, an act of service).

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: For all mothers that they may live out their vocation of raising children in a godly manner and with support in so doing, and for those mentioned today including _____,
_____.

