

May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:15 am

Saint Paul Lutheran Church 250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 www.saintpaultrinity.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024, 8:15 am

(P=Pastor, C=Congregation, *=please stand. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Gathering Music / Prelude: Allegro – Boyce Love Divine – arr. Behnke (Handbell Choir)

(If you desire special prayer, you are welcome to kneel at the altar rail during the gathering music)

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns

Temple Talk – Siimon Haamar, Tartu Academy of Theology

(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Holy and almighty God, how wonderful it is that you would deign to call us into relationship through your Son and he would call us friend. Enable us by your Holy Spirit to love you so fully that we love you above all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen)

(Acolyte lights the candles during the prelude music)

*Invocation and order of Confession and Forgiveness +

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Please kneel or stand and observe a moment of silence for self-examination.)

P Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

*Opening Hymn:



5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King; Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DUKE STREET LM 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.







*The 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. (sung)

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.

*Alleluia Verse



*Gospel Announcement

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



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

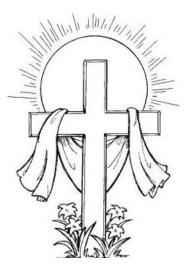
one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that 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.



Children's Sermon: Pastor Eslinger

Sermon: Pastor Eslinger *The Votum



*Hymn of the Day:



© Text: Albert F. Bayly, b. 1901, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844 BEACH SPRING 87 87 D *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.

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

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: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - Albrecht

*Offertory Response:

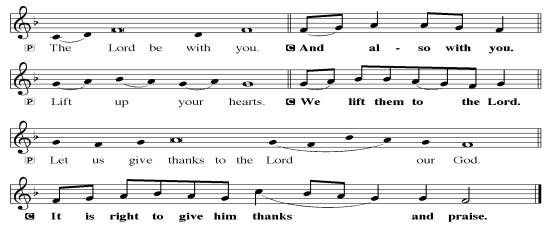


*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray...

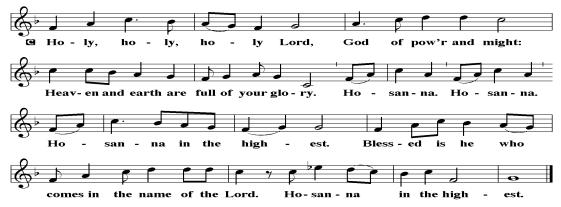
All: Almighty God, you have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light making us disciples of your Son. Grant that all that we are and all that we have may be dedicated to you and be used for the increase of your Kingdom. Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving



P: 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 are we 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 of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The Sanctus



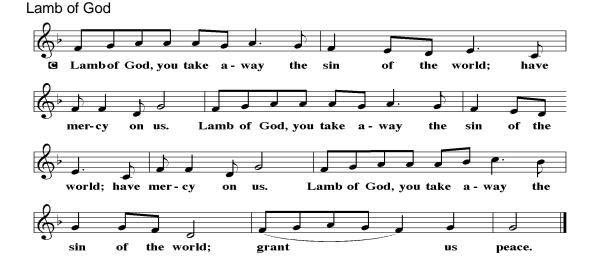
*Eucharistic Prayer
P: Holy, living and loving God...
Let us confess the mystery of faith
C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again
P: ...both now and forever
C: Amen

*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.

P: Come, for all is now ready

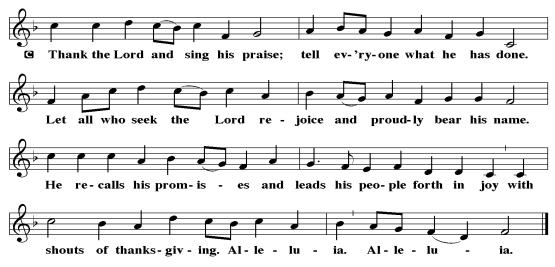


Distribution of Holy Communion (at the altar)

Communion Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus LBW #439

*Blessing

*Post Communion Canticle:



*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: Let us pray:

C: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have strengthened our faith through the life-changing word of grace we have heard with our ears, and our Lord's body and blood we have tasted with our lips. Keep us strong in this faith until we join angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, praising the Lamb who was slain, but who is alive forevermore; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

(Acolyte extinguishes the candles during the hymn)

*Recessional Hymn:



*Dismissal P: Go in peace. Christ is risen! C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Postlude: In Thee is Gladness - Bach

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Theme of the day: The theme of love pervades the lessons for this Sixth Sunday of Easter. To love one another is to abide in the love of Christ. 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 world does not know true love, but the love of Christ overcomes the ways of the world that are selfish, shallow, and fleeting in nature.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining 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. Please join us again.

A special welcome and thank you to Pastor Keith Eslinger.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 717-792-1650

PASTOR: Rev. W. Stevens Shipman E-mail: pastor@saintpaultrinity.org Cell phone: 570-916-7780 ADMIN ASST: Jane Thoman Church office: 717-792-1650 E-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org WEBSITE: www.saintpaultrinity.org WIFI: John3:16 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm OFFICE HOURS: MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org **MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall** minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org MISSIONARIES: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippines PASTORS EMERITI: Reverends Sally & Paul Gausmann

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God:

ALTAR FLOWERS OPEN BULLETIN in honor of our grandchildren by Gary & Dot Mann BREAD & WINE OPEN MAILING OPEN PARISH MESSENGER OPEN SANCTUARY LAMP in honor of our shut-ins by Ted & Norma Krebs

Our Lord's Helpers on May 5, 2024

Greeter:Larry & Becci StairAcolyte:OpenHead Usher:Larry StairSound:Matt ConnLay Reader:Larry RinehartAltar Guild:Sharon SellCommunion Assts.:Sharon & Ron SellAssisting Minister:Cindy Renehan

Our Lord's Helpers on May 12, 2024

Greeter:Howard & Earlene KemnitzAcolyte: OPENHead Usher:Jack SmyserSound: Matt ConnLay Reader:Ed KeeferAltar Guild: OPENCommunion Assts.:Cindy Renehan / Linda ShermanAssisting Minister:Deb Smyser

| | Activities for the Week of May 5, 2024 |
|------------|---|
| Sun. 5/5 | Sixth Sunday of Easter |
| | 8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 9:40 am Faith Builders |
| | 10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion |
| Mon. 5/6 | 7:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting |
| Tues. 5/7 | 6:30 pm Girl Scouts |
| | 7:00 pm Hilltop AA |
| Weds. 5/8 | 6:00 pm Pickleball |
| Thurs. 5/9 | 7:00 pm Ascension of Our Lord Service |
| | Choir Rehearsal |
| Fri. 5/10 | 7:00 pm Hilltop AA |
| Sat. 5/11 | 9:00 am Call Workshop – Fellowship Hall |
| Sun. 5/12 | Seventh Sunday of Easter |
| | 8:15 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 9:40 am Faith Builders |
| | 10:45 am Divine Worship with Holy Communion |

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION is available on the table in the lobby area.

SAVE THE DATE - The Youth and Family Committee will be sponsoring a family retreat at Camp Nawakwa on Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21, 2024. Sign-ups and more information will be available over the summer.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MAY Tartu Academy of Theology

Pastor Siimon Haamer is the President of Tartu Academy of Theology and a thirdgeneration Lutheran pastor from Estonia. Siimon is representing a family that has been sharing the word of God for Estonian people throughout a century. They have done so despite persecution and hardships that they as Christians experienced under Soviet occupation during 50 years after WW 2. Because of the atheistic Soviet regime Christian continuity was cut in Estonia. Their mission is to tie these broken connections again and to proclaim word of God in Estonia, the country which is considered to be one of the most secular countries in the world.

Please use the green envelope that was incorrectly marked as Organ Fund.

CHURCH COUNCIL has appointed the Call Committee. They are as follows: Lawrence Smyser, Cindy Renehan, Malinda Grube, Jessica Markle, Connie Dunklebarger, Sandy Albright; alternate Doug Eash.

CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER - We, as the congregation at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, humbly pray to you our Most Holy God to guide and lead us in searching for our new pastor, who has a strong faith and a mind like Christ. Please share your vision for our church and the desired leadership which you have already chosen for us. Keep our faith strong and hearts open to your future plans for our congregation, church, and community. Help us to continue to be your disciples and to be your shining light every day as we embark through this process. We pray for your wisdom and for the ability to discern who you have called to serve our beloved church for the foreseeable future. Father, we also pray for the Call Committee that will be giving of their time and effort through prayer and support to find God's chosen pastor for our church. Help us to accept and understand your timeline to determine the call for our next pastor, and to not rush the process through our sometimes-limited patience. We pray for all of this in Jesus Name, Amen.



Our call workshop will be held on **Saturday, May 11, from roughly 9 a.m.to 2:30 p.m.** (lunch provided). All members of the congregation are strongly encouraged to participate and share with one another and with the call committee which will be appointed the vision and qualities you discern Saint Paul needs in the next chapter of our ministry. Please continue to pray for this entire process and for the person God has already identified and come prepared both to speak and to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit. For planning purposes please sign up on the paper in the lobby area.



CHURCH MUSIC MONTH

Today we begin our "Church Music Month" celebration by featuring the Handbell Choir. Thank you all for your dedication and contributions to our worship services!

Handbell Choir:

Carl Bender, Sandy Bender, Ellen Bolton, Sue Brindle, Roxanne Donnan, Faye Nace, Cindy Renehan, Linda Sherman, Deb Smyser, Janie Smyser, Regina Springer. Substitutes: Diane Bahn, Cindy Roth

OUR DAILY BREAD - Our dessert for May is carrot cake cupcakes with white frosting. We need 30 doz. by 9:00 am Friday, May 17th. We are asking that you please individually wrap all Our Daily Bread snacks. If you can contribute, please sign the sheet on the table in the lobby area. Thank you!



BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible Study May 8. Bible Study will RESUME on Wednesday, May 15th at 10:00 am.

THE ASCENSION SERVICE will be held in the courtyard on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 pm. An ice cream social will follow in the fellowship hall. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the fellowship hall.

DEACONS (AND THOSE WANTING TO SERVE AS DEACONS) will meet for planning and scheduling on Monday, May 13 at 2:30 pm in the small meeting room in the office area. Zoom participation is possible on advance request.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word will be meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm. We will be continuing our new Bible study titled "Finding Rest in a Busy World." Barb Sloat will lead us in "Know Your Season". We invite all ladies to join us for Bible study and fellowship.

THE BOOK CLUB will meet Friday, May 17 at 10:00 am. Join us as we discuss the book "The Lady's Mine" by Francine Rivers.

TAKING FAITH HOME – May 5, 2024

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.