

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
Ardmore, Pennsylvania



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:00 am

At St. Paul's, ALL are welcome:

As Lutherans we believe that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not something we earn but is freely given through God's love. That love is for all of us - created in God's image - and we respond by welcoming and including everyone, regardless of age, background, race, ethnicity, creed, socioeconomic class, marital status, physical or mental ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join with us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment. There is a place for you here.

Serving on Sunday, April 28

Pastor	The Rev. Laura M. Tancredi
Youth & Family Minister	The Rev. Timothy Ness
Music Director/Organist	Andrew K. Heller
Ushers	Bob Burns, Carolyn Joseph
Reader	Waneta Peart
Acolyte	Ben Barron
Communion Assistant	Barb Keyser
Coffee Hour	Stewardship Committee
Camera Crew	Evelyn Reider
Altar Care	
Set up	Bill Henderson
Clean up	Helene Roth

Serving on Sunday, May 5

Pastor	The Rev. Laura M. Tancredi
Youth & Family Minister	The Rev. Timothy Ness
Music Director/Organist	Andrew K. Heller
Ushers	Libby Hoyer, Andrew Vickrey
Reader	Kevin Clouse
Acolyte	TBA
Communion Assistant	Stu Krissing
Coffee Hour	Social Ministry Committee
Camera Crew	Linda Bailey
Altar Care	
Set up	Belle and David Miller
Clean up	Boofie Younkin, Carolyn Ashburn

Gathering

Prelude

Liebster Jesu

Aaron David Miller

Announcements

(Congregation speaks the words in bold print.)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed
through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

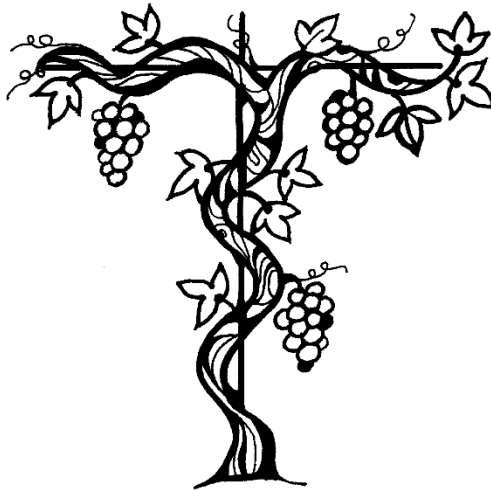
GATHERING HYMN #520

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

GREETING

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

And also with you.



HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Ness

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

Reader/ A reading from Acts:

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Reader/ A reading from First John:

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Choir: I am the vine, you | are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit.

(Repeat Alleluia.)

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

The holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Ness

HYMN OF THE DAY #449

We Know That Christ is Raised

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with the following:

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of our risen Savior be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

Meal

Offering

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry. To give online, follow the QR code to stpaulsardmore.org/giving.



Offertory Anthem

Adult Choir

Jessica Gambino, soprano

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

OFFERTORY HYMN #380 (vs. 1)

*Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and to bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses to the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

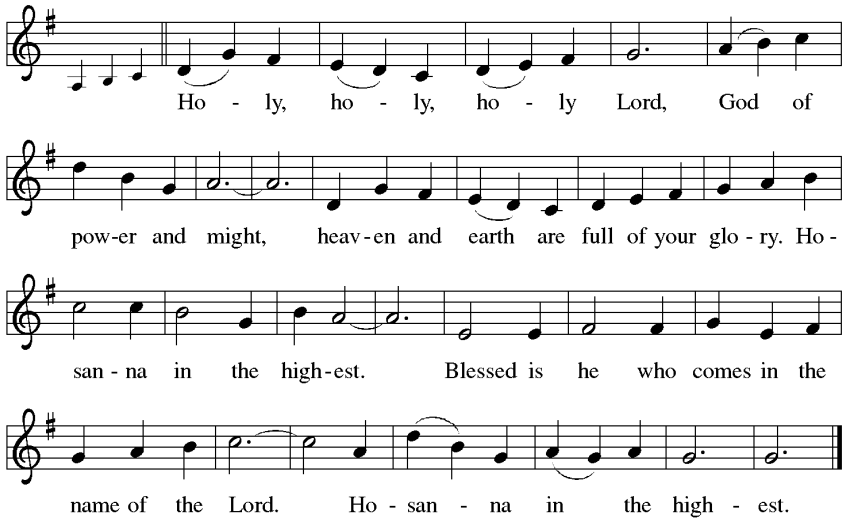
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...*(Here the celebrant continues with the preface for the season, concluding)*...And with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

During the Great Thanksgiving, the congregation responds as follows:

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

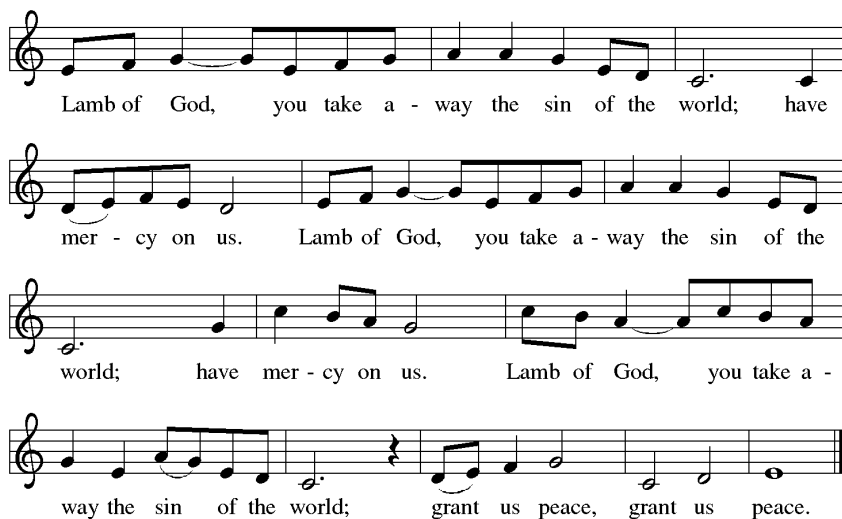
FRACTION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Communion

All the baptized are invited to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. After receiving the bread at the center aisle, you may dip the bread into the intinction cup. Those who prefer may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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

Communion Hymn #447

O Blessed Spring

TABLE BLESSING

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share in the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #452 *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Epilogue

Herbert Howells

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St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm