

# *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Sunday, May 2, 2021*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
215 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA  
570-366-2316**

**[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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## **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** "Prelude and Fugue in C" J.S. Bach

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**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.**

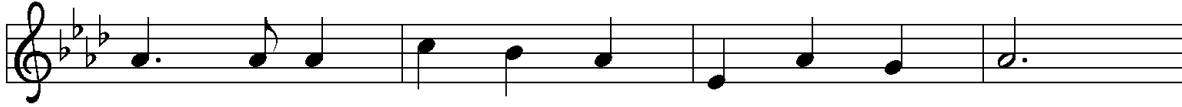
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

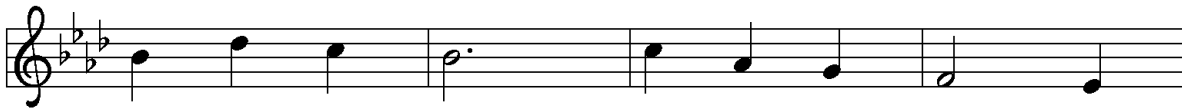
“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”



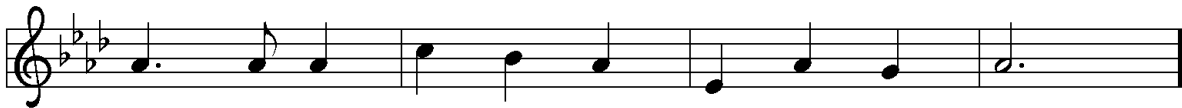
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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

“He Is Lord” (Sing twice.)

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is

4  
Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess

That Je - sus Christ is Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our lives 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

### A Reading from Acts

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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. (Acts 8:26-40)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:25-31 (Read responsively)**

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:**

**“May your heart live forever!”**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the LORD;**

**he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;**

**they shall be known as the LORD’s forever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## A Reading from 1 John

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: 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 loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <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 reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:7-21)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the lyrics 'Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!' written below the notes. The second system of music has the lyrics 'Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!' written below the notes. The word 'Refrain' is written above the first treble staff.

## **GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

(John 15:1-8)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Jesus Loves Me”

[See back of bulletin]

## **SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)**

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 worshiped 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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers  
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you.  
Cleanse your whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of  
creation, help us to see our connectedness to all that you have made. Hear us, O  
God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Teach the leaders of the earth to lead not  
by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love:  
those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, sick, or fearful. Especially provide for the  
needs of everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our  
hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(The Pastor concludes):* In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

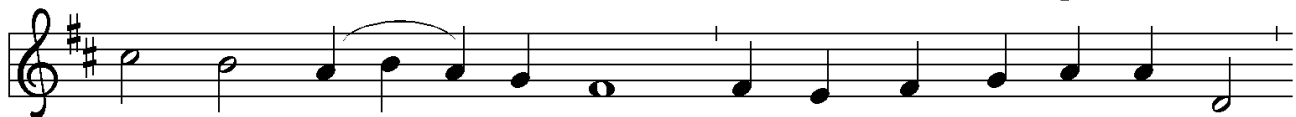
Chancel Choir

### OFFERTORY HYMN

“At the Lamb’s High Feast”



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

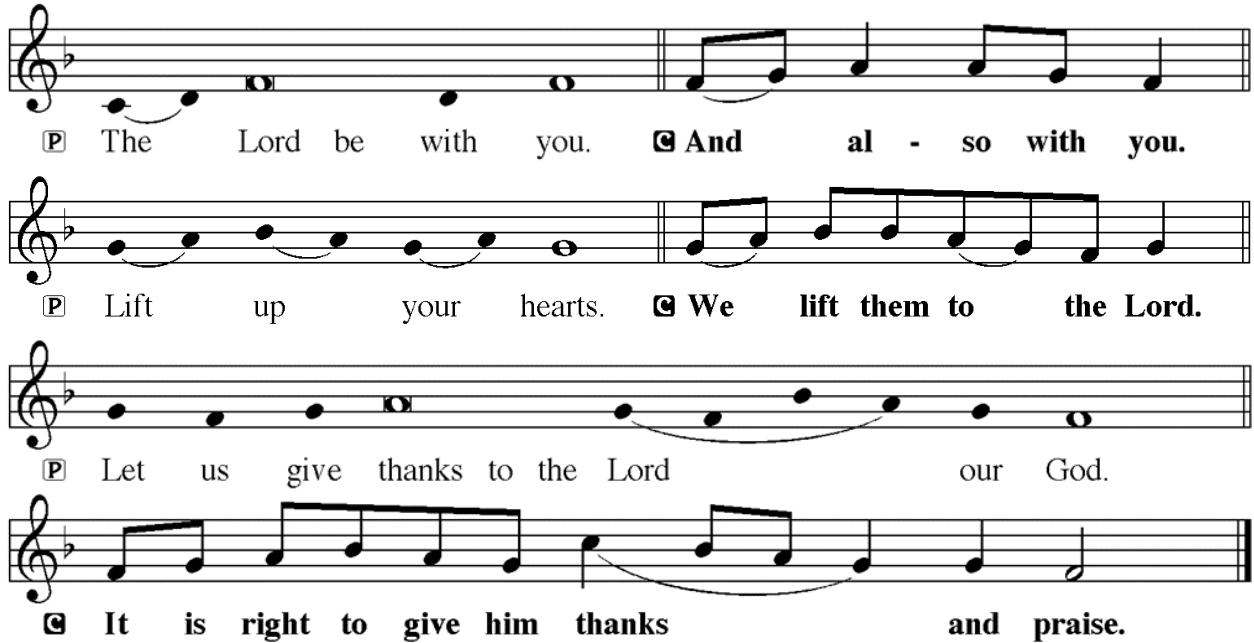
Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

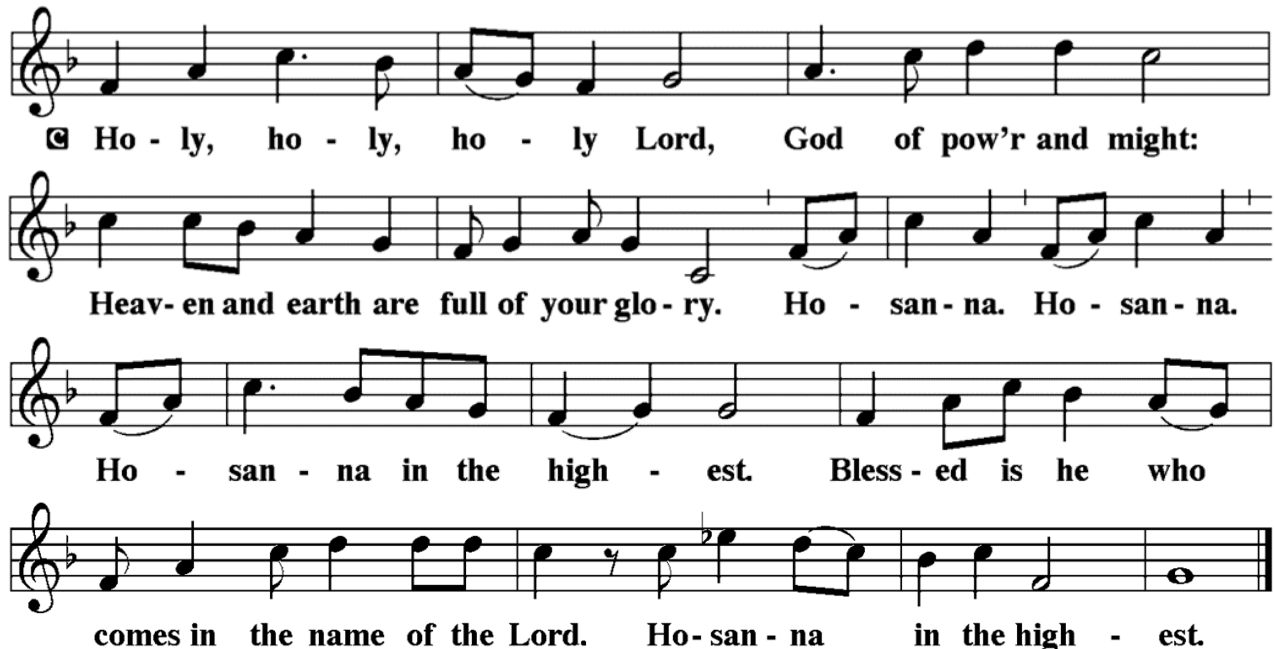
**P** Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

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

**G** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living 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 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:

### SANCTUS



**G** 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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

## AGNUS DEI

☐ 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.

### [INSTRUCTIONS

*The Sacrament will be distributed by the Pastor and the Communion Assistant while the congregation is seated. If you wish to receive a bread wafer, please open your hand towards the pastor. The Pastor will use small stainless-steel tongs to pick up the wafer and drop it into your hand. Then pull up your face mask and place the wafer in your mouth. After you have received the wafer, the Pastor will proceed to the next person seated in the pew.*

*The Communion Assistant will follow the pastor with a tray of cups of wine. If you wish to receive a cup, you should extend your hand towards the Communion Assistant. The Communion Assistant will allow you to pick up a cup from the tray. Then pull up your face mask to drink from the cup.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing from the pastor rather than the Sacrament, please say, "Blessing." The Pastor will give a blessing to you without making any physical contact.*

*Please place empty cups in the small plastic bags found in the pews. These bags will be removed from the pews once the service is ended.]*

### TABLE BLESSING

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty and ever-living God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to the resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May Almighty God open your heart and mind,  
so that you may know and love the † risen Christ.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”  
[See back of bulletin]

**THE DISMISSAL**

Christ has risen. Death has no power over him.  
**He is risen indeed. Let us rejoice and sing his praise.**  
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Christ Is Alive"

M. McDonald

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**Introduction to the day:** This Sunday’s image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ’s living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ’s life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in memory of Guy and Frances Lengel by James Lengel and Family.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of Nathaniel D. Dixon, grandson, by grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (5/2/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Amy Dewald; GREETER: Ron Rozansky;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: TBA

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Sue Reier; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Glenda Bright;

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck; ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Gloria Dierwechter; COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/9/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Patrick McCoy; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Sarah Eger; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Deb Bolinsky;

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long; COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, May 2	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday, May 4	6:00 PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, May 5	5:00 PM	STiC
Thursday, May 6	4:30 PM	Evangelism hosts OBPA
	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via Zoom
Friday, May 7	1:30 PM	STiC Sojourn in Auburn, PA
Saturday, May 8	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, May 9	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

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# GERANIUM ORDER SHEET

Pentecost Sunday is May 23, 2021, and we plan to decorate the church with red geraniums. The deadline to order is **May 9**, and the cost of each geranium is \$3.00.

Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please detach lower portion and place your order in the basket on the table under the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Envelopes are there for you to use.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to dedicate your flowers, please fill out the information below:

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Geraniums: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\$ amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## “Jesus Loves Me”

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

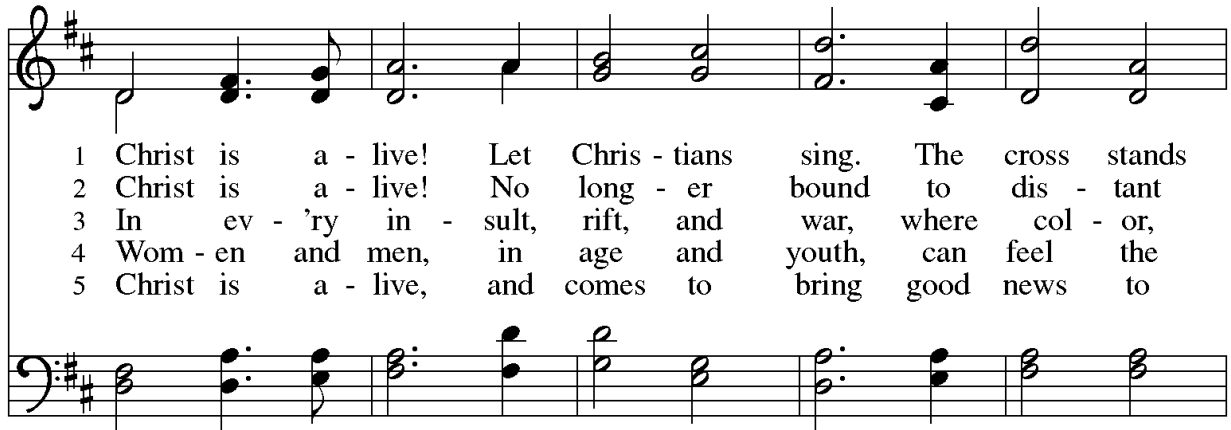
*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

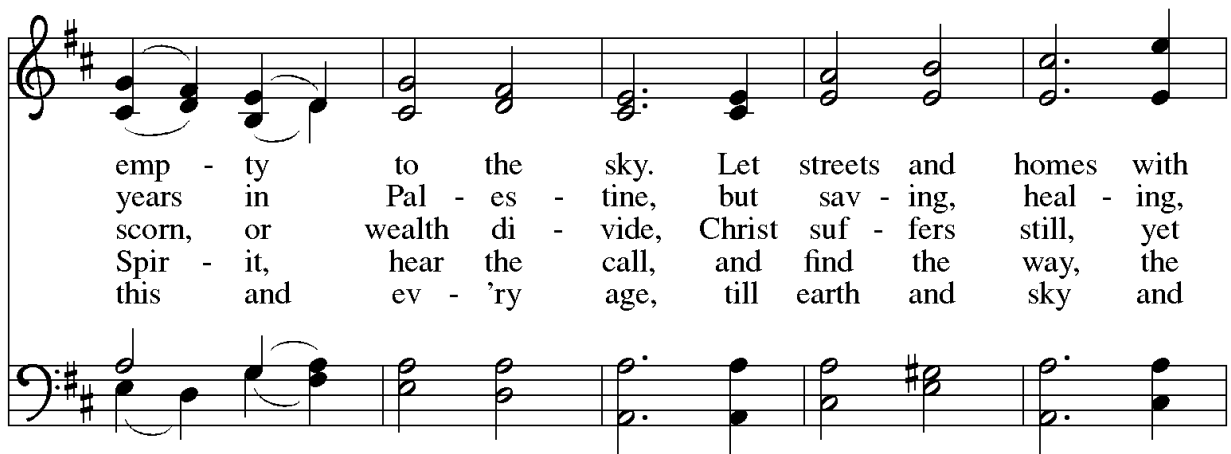
yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

# SENDING HYMN

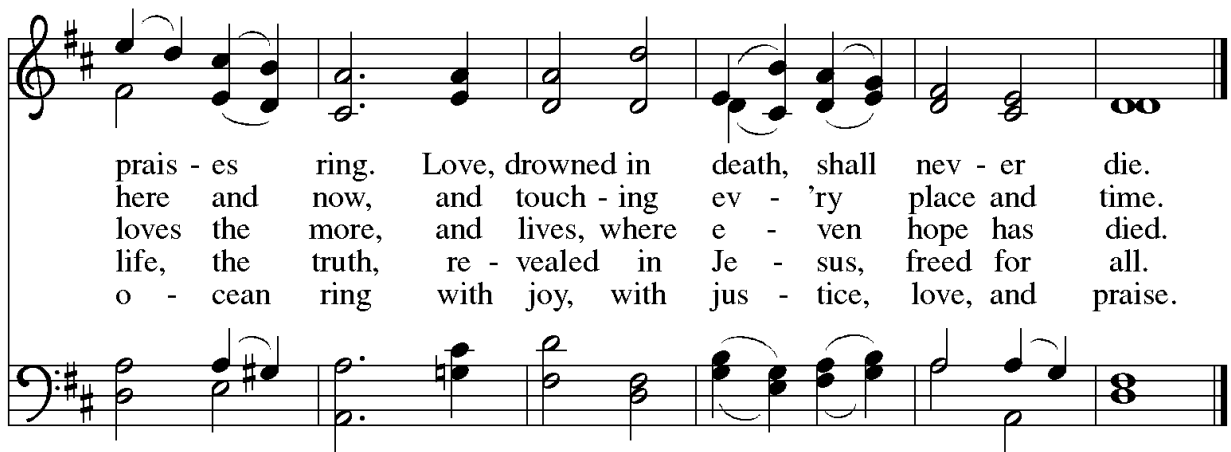
## “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.