

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

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood *has*
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you are the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt. May we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM ACTS

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],
²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.” (Acts 2:14a, 22-32)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16 (read responsively)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

A READING FROM FIRST PETER

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9).

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!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

(John 20:19-30)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

[See back of bulletin]

SERMON

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 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary
world. Empower us to boldly share your unconditional love through our words and
our work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all
creation. Nourish the earth with gentle rain and warm sunlight. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting
them your peace. Give us peace and hearts that burn for justice so that all we say
and do reflects your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, show us your presence on our
journeys. Provide good relationships for people of all ages which nurture our
connection to you and one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer in any way. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with those who now rest in your love. Help us to be fruitful until you call us home with joy to everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

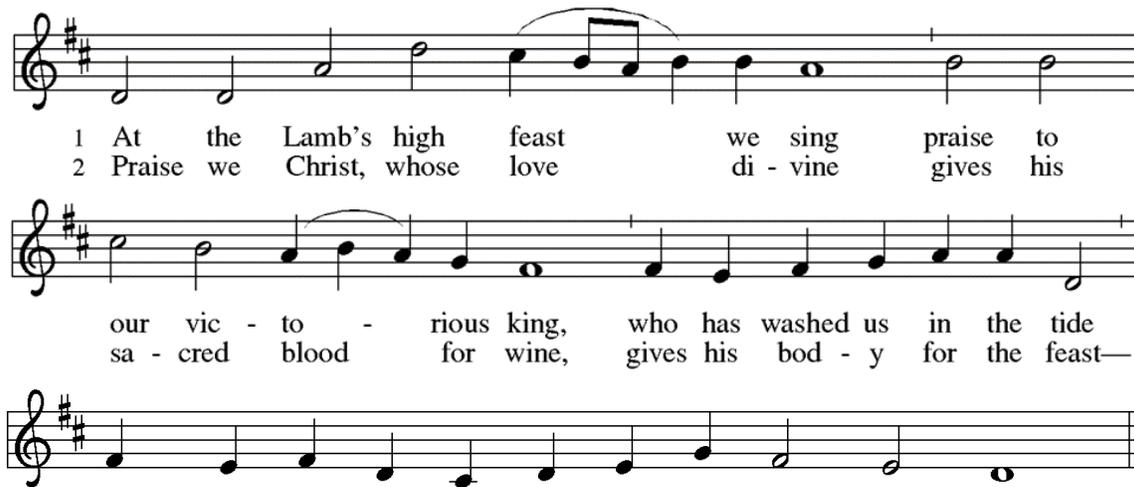
The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "Trumpet Tune" D. Lasky

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "In the Garden" C. Miles

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

our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—

flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, our gifts seem so small for such a great celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our little lives. Feed us again at this table that we might go forth to serve in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and in 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

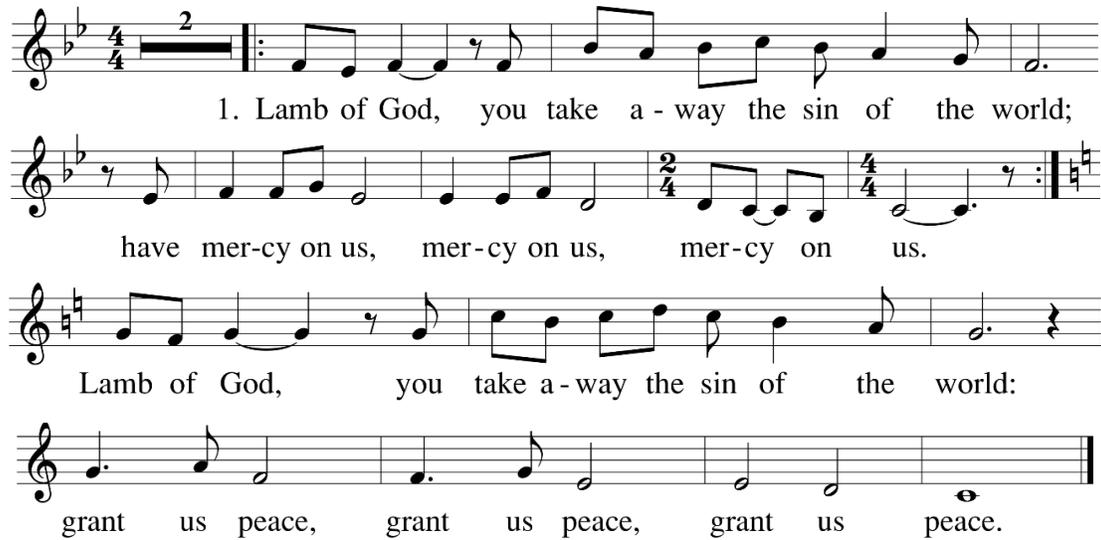
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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



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

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

COMMUNION HYMN "O Savior, Precious Savior" [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God the Father who raised Christ from the dead, open to you the gate of everlasting life. May God the Son who burst forth from the grave, give you joy as you celebrate his resurrection. May God the Holy Spirit who brought to you new life in baptism, build up your faith and grant you peace. And may our Triune God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“The Strife Is O’er”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go now in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

M. McDonald

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Victoria Spittler by her parents, Tina and Scott Butler.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Jul’s birthday, 15 April, by Sue and Kurt Schenck.

Introduction to the day: In today’s gospel, the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION TODAY

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a reception following the 10:30 a.m. service TODAY for all new members who have joined our church family in the past year. If you have not yet met our newest members, please join us to welcome them!

LET’S KEEP IT UP!

Please sign cards for members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., those who have long-term health problems, military personnel, and college students far from home.) These cards are in the back of our sanctuary on the small table with our prayer list.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last regularly scheduled Second Sunday School class will take place on May 14! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 AM service for Bible stories, fun, fellowship, and a snack. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, April 16	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion New Member Reception following Worship
Wednesday, April 19	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, April 20	6:30 PM	Constitution
Friday, April 21	10:00 AM	STiC SRT Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, April 22	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, April 23	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	3:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #31129

SERVING TODAY (4/16/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Joanne Emerich

LECTOR: Robin Zimmerman; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cindy Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/23/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Sue Reier; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Jean Premich

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

WELCA

Our WELCA group will host the WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Details are in the April newsletter. If you plan to attend, please sign a registration form available at the WELCA bulletin board as soon as possible. You have until April 22 to pay. An envelope is on the table for your check made payable to St. Paul's WELCA. The cost is \$11. (This includes \$1 for registration and \$10 for lunch which is optional.)

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The Schuylkill Area Outreach (a group of three area Lutheran churches) will be "joining hands" to provide a free family movie night on Friday, May 12th at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Friedensburg, PA. The movie to be shown is "Wonder." All are welcome to attend.

Please call Linda Covert at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven, PA, to make your reservation no later than April 30th at 570-385-2657. All children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

BOOK DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

Our Service Committee is sponsoring a book drive for area families through the work of the Orwigsburg Food Panty. Books for toddlers and preschool children are especially helpful, but books for teenagers and even adults are also appreciated. Your donations of new or gently used books can be placed in a box in the narthex beginning Sunday, April 30. This book drive will continue through Sunday, May 28. Remember: A Book Is a Gift You Can Open Over and Over!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you have not yet picked up your Easter flowers, please do so today!

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	570-366-8757	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

HYMN OF THE DAY “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

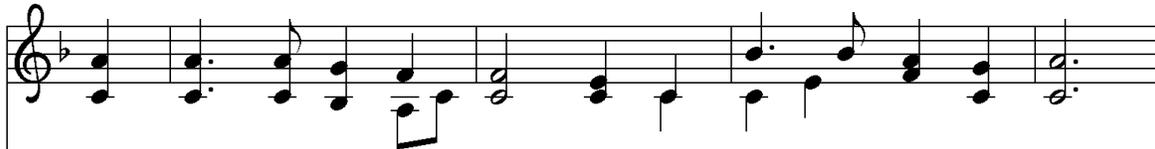
PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD

All members who receive the Sacrament today are encouraged to fill out a communion card and drop it in the offering plate. Members should confirm that they have received the Sacrament at least once during each calendar year. Guests may also choose to do so. Thank you!

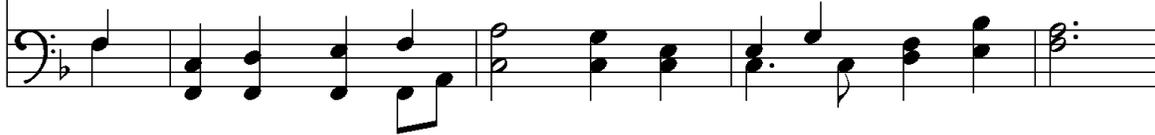
“BRING A FRIEND” SUNDAY

Bring a friend to visit St. Paul’s and worship with us on Sunday, May 21 at both services. A small reception will be held following the 10:30 a.m. service. Invite someone you know to “come and see!”

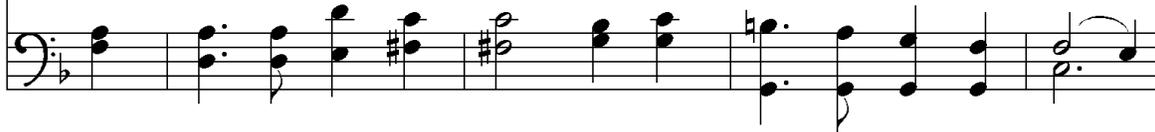
COMMUNION HYMN "O Savior, Precious Savior"



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



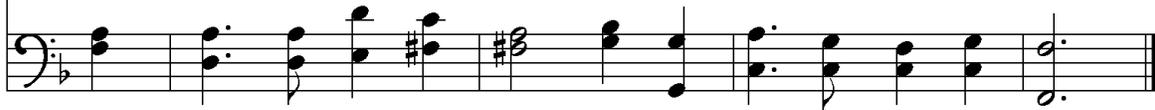
O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!



SENDING HYMN

“The Strife Is O’er”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o’er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor’s
2 The pow’rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav’n’s high
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death’s sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our April newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better!

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!