

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 5, 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Trumpet Tune" D. Johnson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Drawn by our joy in the Risen Lord, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the
✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As St. Paul writes: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

(Romans 6:3-5)

Let us confess our sins.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Almighty God,

**we cannot free ourselves from our desire to sin
and we cannot keep sin out of every part of our lives.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Cleanse us from our sins. Give us new hearts and minds.

And raise us to new and abundant life. Amen.

Know that your sins are forgiven and that you have the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
[See back of bulletin]

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!

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. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared joys beyond our human understanding for those who you love. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM ACTS

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. (Acts 10:44-48)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 (Read responsively)

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

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

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

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

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

**In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

A READING FROM FIRST JOHN

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

(1 John 5:1-6)

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.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have 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. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

(John 15:9-17)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God Beyond All Praising”

[See back of bulletin]

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and strengthen our commitments to faith partners in our community and around the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Revive your creation, that every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen cooperation in our international partnerships. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. We especially pray for those who live amid violence and for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice and joyfully do the work of the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone in faith before us and at the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM)

"Day By Day"

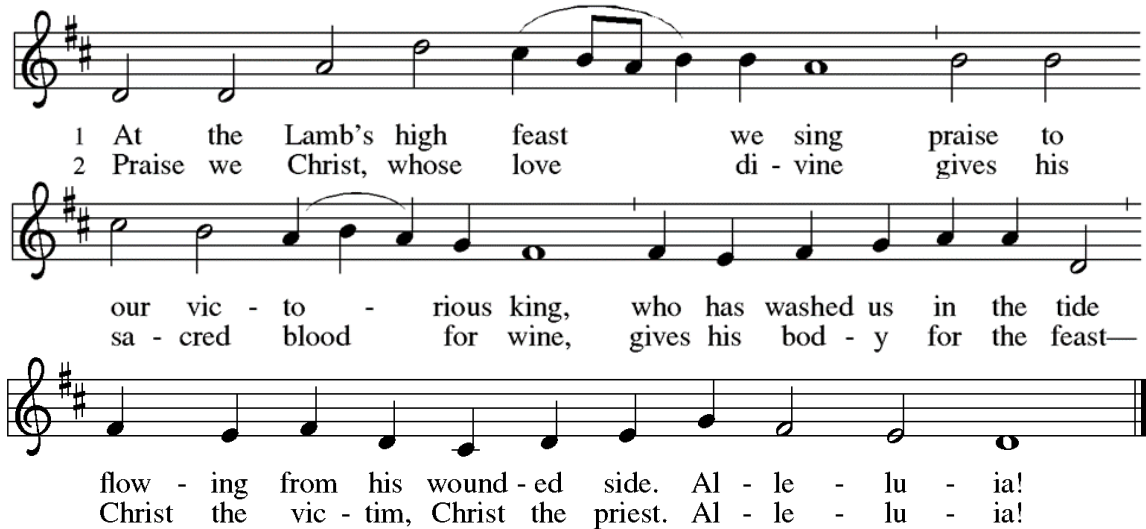
R. Thygerson

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

"He Is There"

M. K. Beall

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.

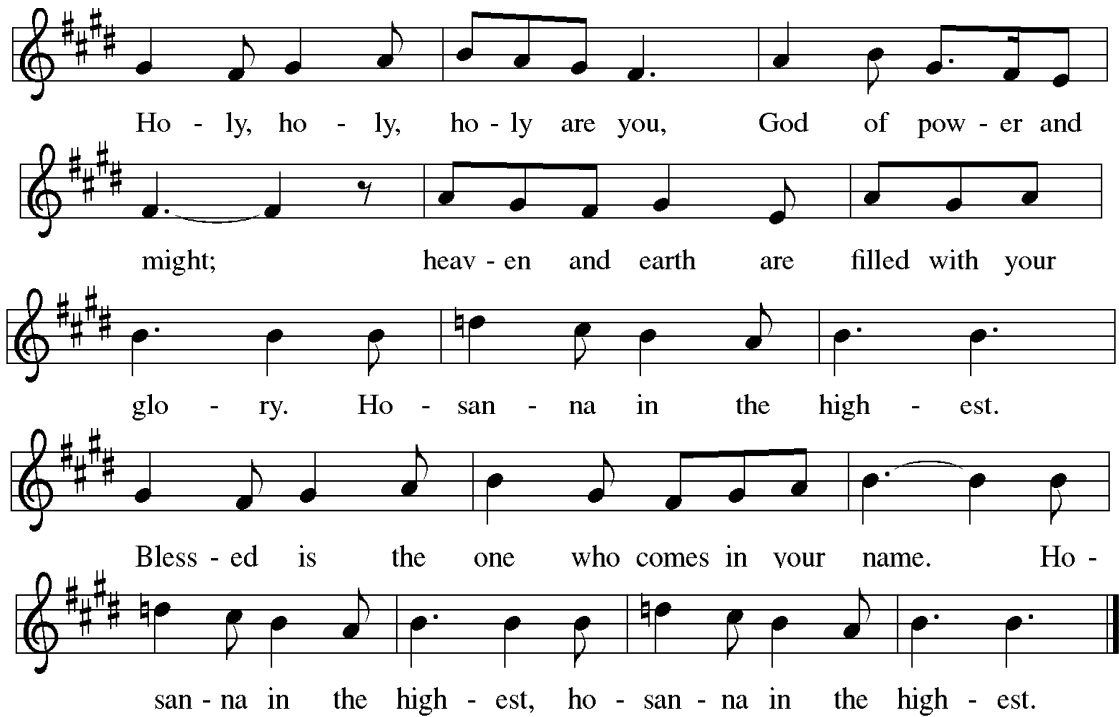
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

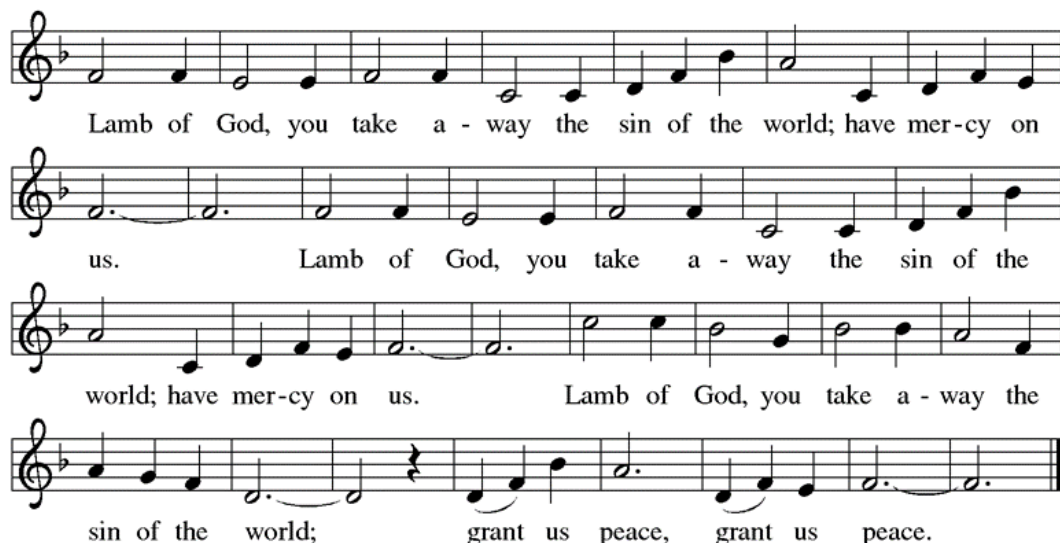
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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



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.

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. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

[Continues Next Page]

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 should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those seated on the lectern side.

COMMUNION HYMN

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

POSTLUDE

"Christ Is Alive"

M. McDonald

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WHERE ARE OUR OFFERING PLATES?

Except for special Sundays, our offering plate is in the back of the church near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering and have not already done so, please place your offering in the plate before worship begins or as you leave the church.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Nathaniel Dixson’s 24th birthday by grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of Guy R. and Frances Lengel by son, James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of Edith Kriner on what would have been her 100th birthday (5/5/24), by her loving family.

Introduction to the day: The main theme for this Sunday is the idea of friendship. We’re encouraged to help others, just like Jesus did. But in John’s gospel, being a servant doesn’t fully express our relationship with Christ. Instead, the word, “friendship” does a better job because it includes love, happiness, and a strong bond. This is the kind of relationship Christ wants with us. Just like the Greeks who thought that real friends would give up their lives for each other, we’re also called to love each other deeply in our Christian community. This love is both a command from Christ and something the Spirit helps us to do.

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. They are signs of our continued encouragement and support.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our final Second Sunday School class will take place next Sunday, May 12. Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 a.m. service and students ages 11 to 18 are invited to take part from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. with our Teen group. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer at (570) 394-3522 or via email at swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WHERE ARE OUR OFFERING PLATES?

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LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Read our May 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 -- to the glory of God!

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We plan to decorate the church with potted red geraniums on Pentecost, which is Sunday, May 19. The deadline to place an order is Friday, May 10 and the cost of each geranium pot is \$4.00.

“STAMP OUT HUNGER” FOOD DRIVE

A national “Stamp Out Hunger” drive will be held on Saturday, May 11. Donations in our area will benefit the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. If you would like to help, please place non-perishable food items in a bag at your mailbox and a letter carrier from will do the rest. Thank you for your support of our local Food Pantry!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S		
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Sunday, May 5	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, May 6	7:00 PM	Worship and Music
Tuesday, May 7	7:00 PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, May 8	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, May 9		ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
	7:00 PM	Conservancy Meeting
Friday, May 10	10:00 AM	STiC trail walk at Landingville
Saturday, May 11		“Stamp Out Hunger” Drive
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, May 12		MOTHER’S DAY
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum & Teen Class
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

Our annual Patriotic Concert will be held on Sunday, May 26 at 7 p.m. Music will be performed by St. Paul's Bell Choir and the Patriotic Festival Choir. Light refreshments will be served following the performance. This concert is free and open to the community. Donations are graciously accepted. We look forward to seeing you there!

SERVING TODAY (5/5/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Diane Brobst

LECTOR: Becky Smoot; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Jeff Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/12/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Deb Bolinsky; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

HYMN OF THE DAY "O God Beyond All Praising"



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Day By Day”

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

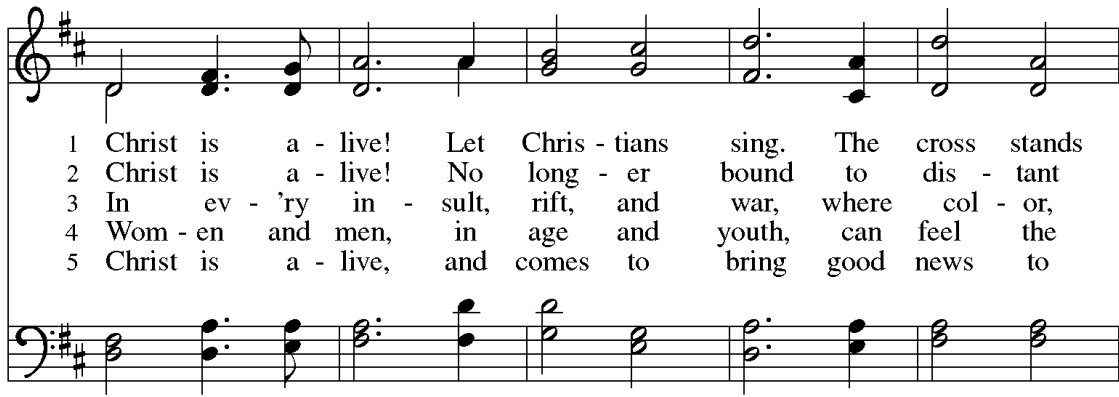
draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

SENDING HYMN

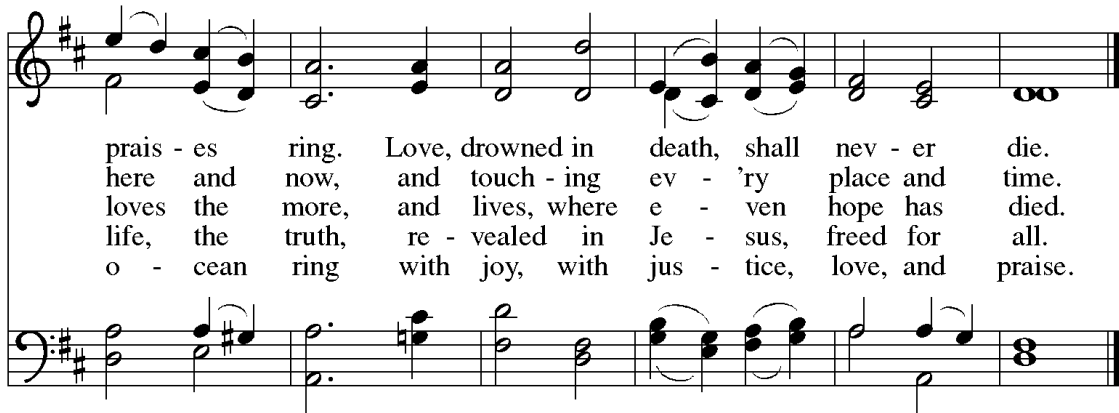
“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”



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.

GERANIUM ORDER SHEET

We plan to decorate the church with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The deadline to place an order is Friday, May 10 and the cost of each geranium pot is \$4.00. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please place your order and payment in the basket on the table under the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Envelopes are available for your use.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Contact Number _____

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

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please check this box if you wish to donate the flowers to the church and not take them home.

Total # of Geraniums: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____