Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 12, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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.**

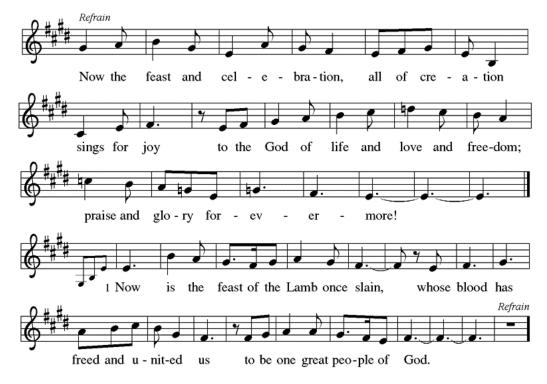
GATHERING HYMN

"You Servants of God" [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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, 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

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph

called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. (Acts 1:15-17, 21-26)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 (Read responsively)

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore, the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

A READING FROM FIRST JOHN

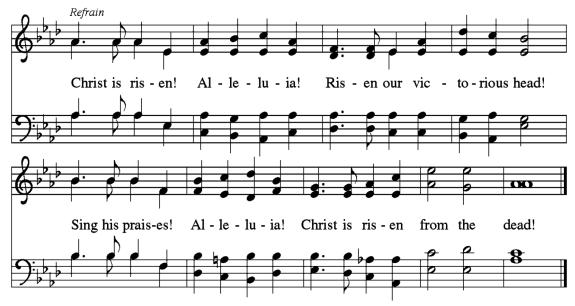
⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:9-13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] 6"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth." (John 17:6-19)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Son of God, Eternal Savior" [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.

Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops and pastors to be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve your good creation. Encourage and inspire those who work to clean up our environment and protect creatures great and small. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guide all those who govern to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Help us to share our joys and concerns with those who lead. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who suffer and protect us from the snares of the evil one. We pray for everyone who lives amid poverty, hunger, or violence and for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Bless all the mothers in our midst and those who in times of trouble have been a mother to someone in need. We also give thanks for all mothers who dwell with you beyond all earthly pain and sorrow. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Keep us ever thankful for all those who have gone before us in faith. Inspire us by their witness and help us to live joyfully Christian lives. 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.**

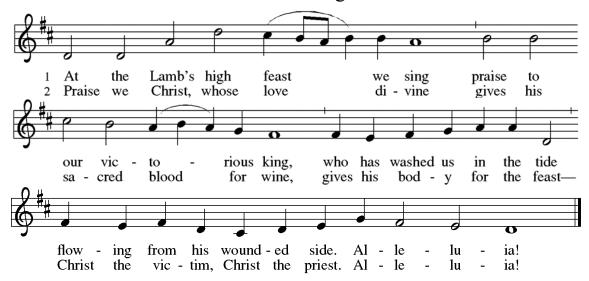
PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN "At the Lamb's High Feast"



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.**

<u>Meal</u>

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

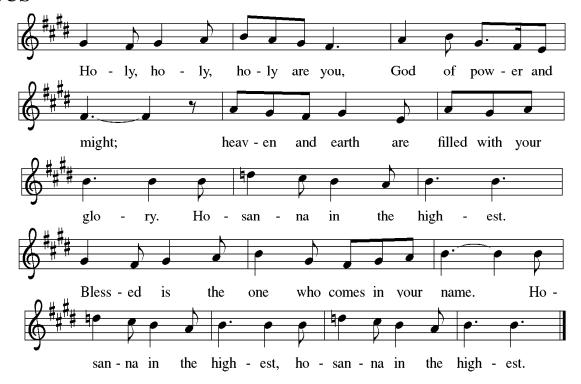
We lift them to the Lord.

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



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.

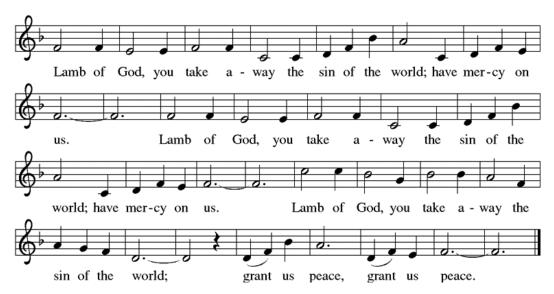
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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



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 "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" [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 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" [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

We welcome Dale Bonenberger as our guest organist. He will play at our 10:30 a.m. worship service.

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

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of Joy Wolfe and Robert Schuld by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

Bulletins are presented in memory of my mother's birthday and in honor of my brother's birthday by Cindy Ritschel.

Introduction to the day: This Sunday's Gospel reading from St. John features Jesus' prayer for his followers on the eve of his death. The key message is Jesus' wish for unity among his followers, just as he is one with the Father. This unity isn't just about agreeing on doctrine or being part of the same institution. It's about a deep connection, a shared life, love, and joy. This unity is brought about by the Holy Spirit. So, we say, "Come, Holy Spirit!".

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S				
Sunday, May 12		MOTHER'S DAY		
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion		
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum and Teen Class		
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion		
		Sunday School		
Monday, May 13	7:00 PM	Council		
Tuesday, May 14	1:00 PM	WELCA		
	6:00 PM	Service Ministry		
Wednesday, May 15	6:00 PM	Bell Choir		
•	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir		
Thursday, May 16	7:00 PM	Property		
Friday, May 17	10:00 AM	STiC Walk at Auburn		
•	6:00-7:00 PM	Food Pantry (prepare boxes)		
Saturday, May 18	8:45-11:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution		
J / J	3:00-5:00 PM	Crafters' Guild at the Durkee House		
	5:30 PM	Worship		
Sunday, May 19		DAY OF PENTECOST		
•	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion		
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum		
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion		

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our final Second Sunday School class will take place TODAY! 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.

We thank Sarah Eger for leading our Second Sunday program and we thank everyone who has helped her during the 2023-2024 school year. This program will return in the fall -- after a well-earned summer break.

SERVICE MINISTRY "BOOK DRIVE"

Our Service Ministry committee would like donations of new or very gently used board books, preschool level, and early reader books to benefit families who are served by our Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. Books can open the minds of children and young people even among families who are facing serious difficulties. A box for donations has been placed in our narthex. Please be generous!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of 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 here -- to the glory of God!

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

Join us for our annual Patriotic Concert 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.

If you are interested in singing with the Festival Choir for this concert, please see Justin for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

CRAFTERS' GUILD

Our crafters are working on a variety of red, white, and blue crafts. Stop by our table at the Patriotic Concert on Sunday, May 26 and see the patriotic-themed items created by our talented members! Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 18 from 3-5 p.m. at Kristin Durkee's house. Come join us for crafting, fellowship, and fun!

SERVING TODAY (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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/19/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Barb Sterner; LECTOR: Eric Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald

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

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.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

We invite all graduates and their families to join our 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Let us celebrate with our "Grads" and their families!

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Dir	rector 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 Mana	ger 936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING HYMN "You Servants of God"



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.

WELCA

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Sue Schenck will share slides of her many visits to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The ingathering offering received at this meeting will be given to Carol and Todd Ross of River House to help them host and support their outdoor recreation program for disabled/PTSD veterans.

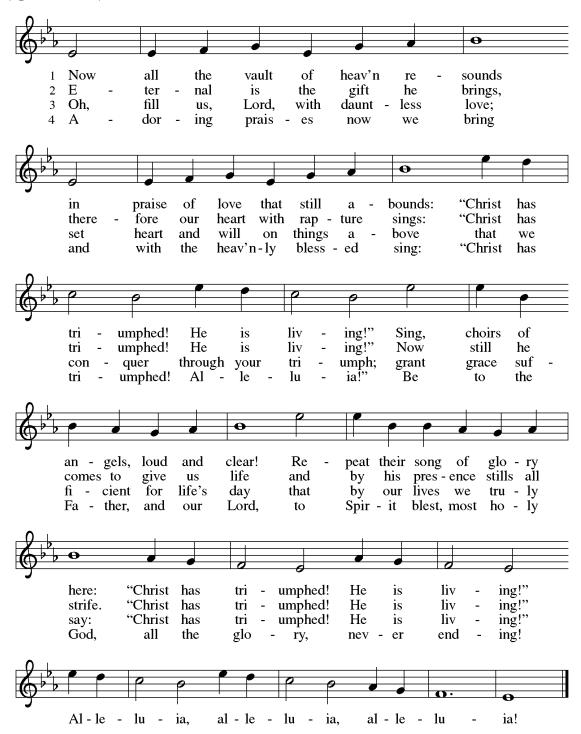
HYMN OF THE DAY "Son of God, Eternal Savior"



COMMUNION HYMN "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"



SENDING HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 2!

We will return to our summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 2. Instead of having 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday mornings, we will share a single 9:30 a.m. worship service. Our Saturday worship service will continue at 5:30 p.m. during the summer months. Please mark your calendars!

GERANIUM ORDER SHEET

We plan to decorate the church with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The deadline to place an order is **Sunday**, **May 12** 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 yo	ur flowers, please fill out the information below:
In honor of:	
In memory of:	