

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 27, 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 N. Warren St.

Orwigsburg, PA

570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Strife Is O'er”

C. Berry

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

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

[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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life, you meet us in our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. Breathe your Spirit upon us, renew our faith in your mercy, and make us the body of Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM ACTS

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

(Acts 5:27-32)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 150 (Read responsively)

Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple;
praise God in the mighty firmament.

**Praise God for mighty acts;
praise God for exceeding greatness.**

Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lyre and harp.

**Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe.**

Praise God with resounding cymbals;
praise God with loud clanging cymbals.

**Let everything that has breath
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!**

A READING FROM REVELATION

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

(Revelation 1:4-8)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

[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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed, and we witness to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lead police, firefighters, paramedics, and all first responders to serve with justice and compassion, ensuring safety and dignity for all, so that no one lives in fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protect all who live amid war and violence. We also pray for everyone on our prayer list and for all who keep their suffering hidden from the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew and bless everyone who participated in our Holy Week and Easter worship. Help us to trust that you have placed each of us where you want us to be. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for the lives of all your saints who now rest from their toil. Daily renew our hope, dispel our fears, and grant us your perfect peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) “Thine Is the Glory” A.L. Page

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) *“Death, Where is Your Sting” L. Larson

OFFERTORY HYMN “At the Lamb’s High Feast”

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to his
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

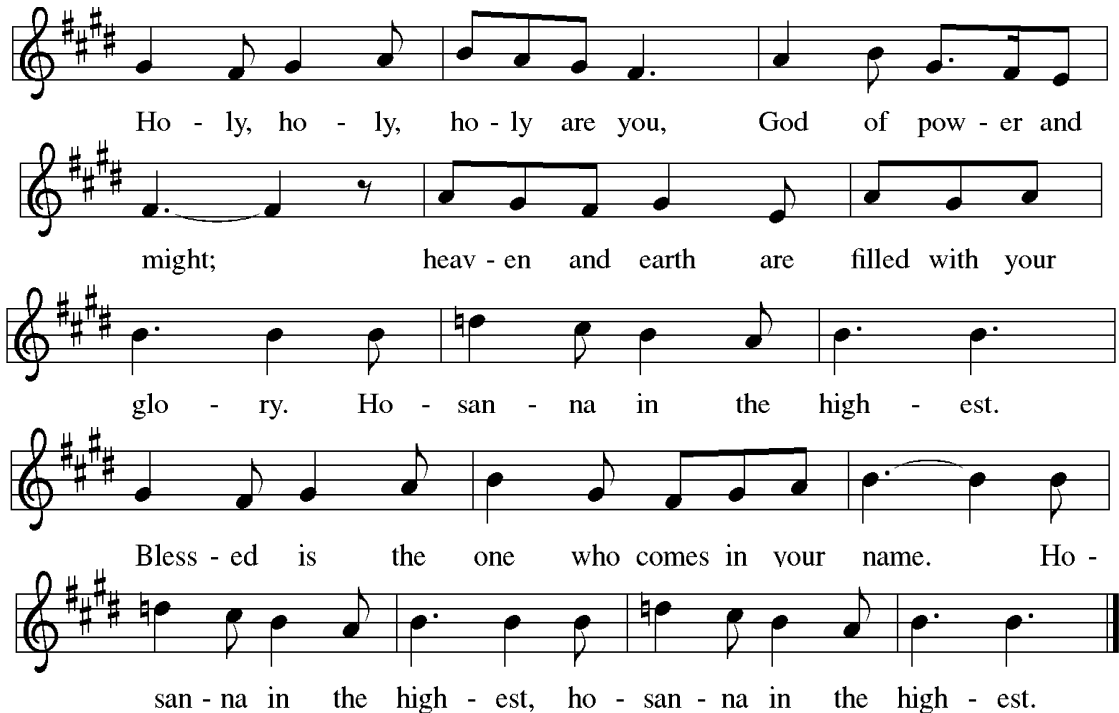
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

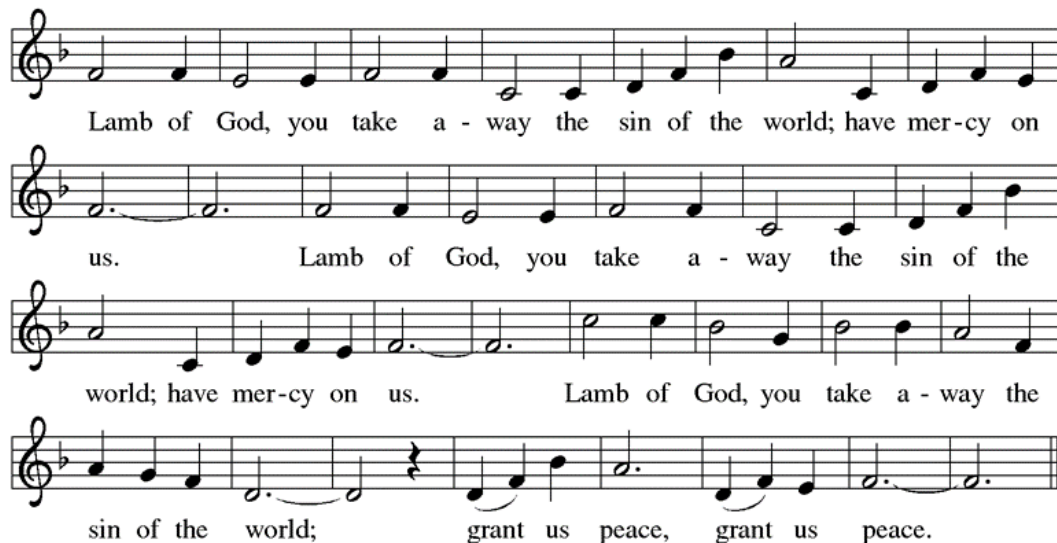
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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. You 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, come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand.

We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by those on the lectern side.

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 at your table 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.

POSTLUDE

"Christ the Lord is Risen"

T. Birchwood

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

Altar flowers are presented in memory of my parents, Guy and Frances Lengel, by James W. Lengel.

Chancel flowers are presented in honor of Andrew Wehr’s birthday by his parents, Tom and Gwen Wehr.

Anthem * “Death, Where is Your Sting” presented in loving memory of Dick Teets by Duke and Sue Schenk and Family. (1997)

Introduction to the day: Even after all we’ve heard and seen, believing isn’t always easy. So, we immerse ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days—a week of weeks. John the evangelist reveals sign after sign, declaring Jesus’ victory over death. Again and again, the risen Christ meets us in holy communion, inviting us to touch, taste, and receive his peace.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, April 27	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday, April 30	12 Noon	Crafters’ Guild
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, May 3	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, May 4	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 be Sunday, May 11. Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday School will take a break for the summer and resume in September.

SERVING TODAY (4/27/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jerry Goessel; USHER: Jerry Goessel
LECTOR: Sue Schenck; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Evan Davis
ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Joanne Emerich

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/4/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Bill Smoot; USHER: David Kriner; LECTOR: Deb O'Connor
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Becky Smoot
ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

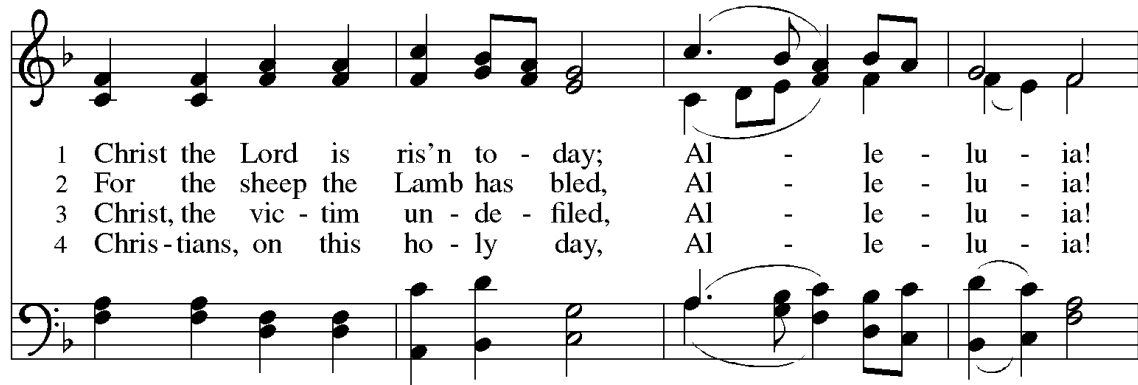
RESERVE SPACE IN THE CHURCH?

Reidler Hall and other spaces within the church are available for use by members, church groups, non-profit organizations, and others. To reserve a space, please visit our church office to pick up a copy of our "Rental Guidelines" and an "Application Form." Completed forms should be received by our office at least six weeks before the date of the event or activity. All applications will be reviewed and require approval from Church Council.

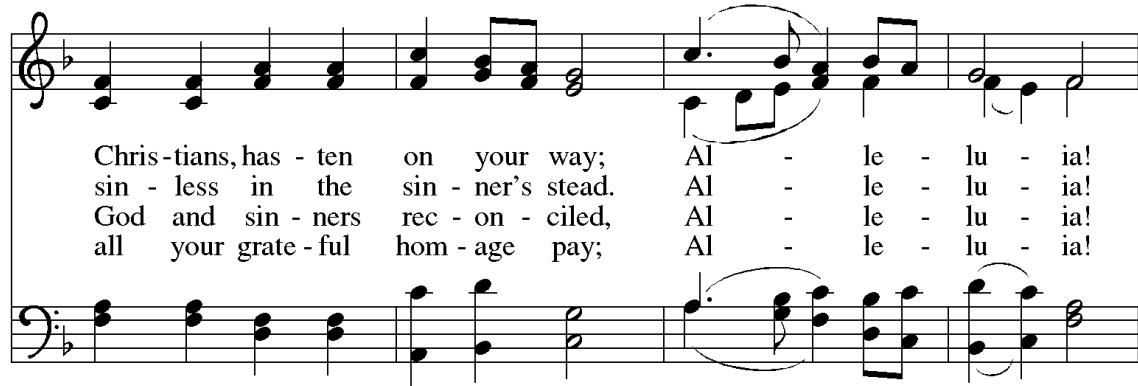
RECYCLE YOUR EASTER FLOWER POT COVERS!

The Worship and Music Committee would like anyone who still has their Easter flowerpot covers to kindly return them to the church. A collection box has been placed in the narthex where they can be dropped off. All returned covers will be stored and reused, helping our church save money and protect the environment. Thank you for your support!

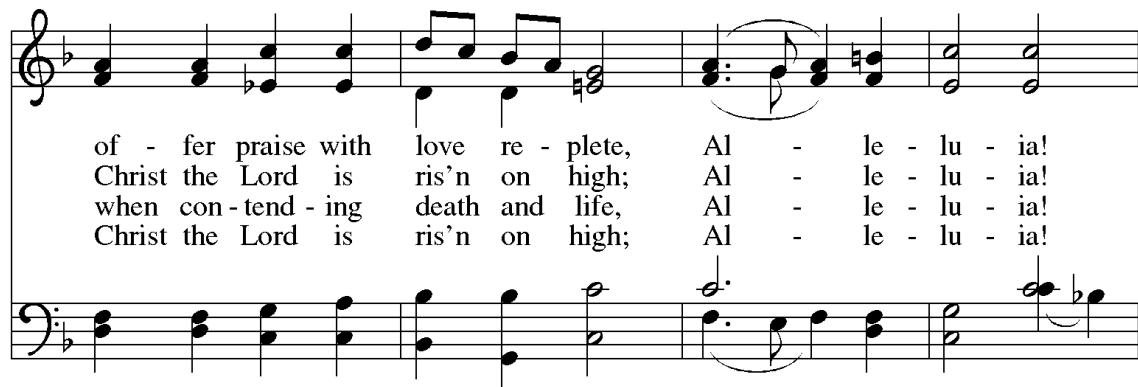
GATHERING HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"



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!

CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS

Our Spring creations are on display in the basement and available for purchase. The items will remain available through Mother's Day. Stop by to see our "creativity in bloom."

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!

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support. Every donation, big or small, helps us gather new members, spread Christ's teachings, and serve our community. Your contributions keep our church running and aid those in need. Please consider increasing your giving to St. Paul's ministry.



Also consider the benefits of giving through Secure Plus. →

PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD

All members should confirm that they have received the Sacrament at least once during each calendar year. If you have not done so this year, please do so today.

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 yaw - ning 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 newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God.

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to those who can't join us for worship. We regularly need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home. If you have new information or address changes, please contact any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

ADULT FORUM NEWS

Adult Forum is using Phillip Cary's book *The Nicene Creed* to better understand and celebrate what we as Lutherans believe. We meet in the parlor on Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. For more information, contact the church office or Barbara Lafko at bjlafko@yahoo.com or 570-366-1208.

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

OUR CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 9 A.M. to 12 NOON.