



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Supply Pastor Joseph A. Veres

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

May 10, 2020

Welcome and Blessings! Easter is the joy of the resurrection and of new life where Jesus proclaims his identity as the way, truth, and life. Welcome everyone, especially those who may be visitors. We offer you thanks and praise to our gracious God for your presence.

Communion We will be doing communion today. **We ask you have a slice (or partial slice) of bread (or gluten free alternative) ... or cut a portion sufficient for all who are in your household, plus have either grape juice or wine as available. +We will give instructions during the time the meal is instituted. We teach to receive either element (bread or the cup) is sufficient to receive Christ's presence... so you may wish to have only bread if adding grape juice or wine may be difficult due to the current COVID 19 virus restrictions.**

Offering We encourage to send your regular offering to the church at the above listed address. You may also wish to consider "Simply Giving" which automatically remits your chosen offering amount to the church; contact the Church Office, 570-223-9422 if you have questions.

St. Paul's Mission Statement

We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life.

We seek spiritual maturity through worship, learning and serving.

We invite and welcome all who desire to share this journey of faith active in love.

Introduction to Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds, we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

THE SERVICE

10:00 AM

Prelude

Gathering

*** Thanksgiving for Baptism**

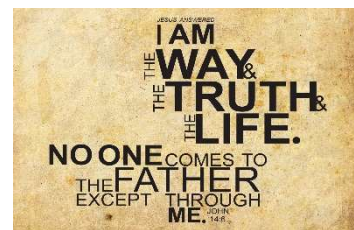
P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water given in baptism, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



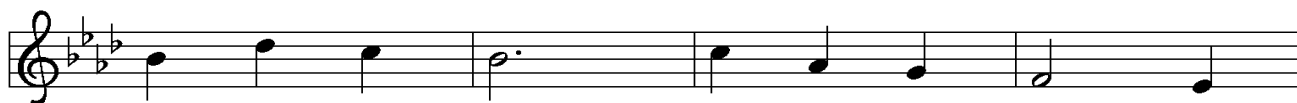
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



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



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



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



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

Refrain

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



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

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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P Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Word

Lector: A reading from Acts of the Apostle.

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength. R**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love." **R**

Lector: A Reading from First Peter.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let

yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem *“Lord, My Strength”* **May Ertle**

***Gospel Acclamation (SUNG)**

LBW Page 83



***Gospel**

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Spoken

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”





⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Spoken

Sermon

All ahead full... life

*** Hymn of the Day**

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

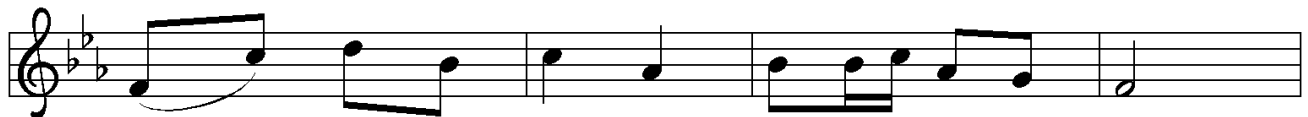
LBW p. 148

>> See next page for hymn music and words <<

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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***Apostles' Creed**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***Prayers of Intercession**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety (*aid organizations may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***Peace**

(The congregation is unmuted to share the peace.)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational Sharing of Peace

Meal

Offering

***Offertory**

"Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord" (SUNG) Music LBW Page 87

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***Offertory Prayer**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Spoken

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***The Preface**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

(SUNG)

Music Page 89

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The bread and drink (communion) will be consumed after the singing of “Lamb of God” on p. 10.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

***Lord's Prayer**

P/A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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

Communion Canticle: "Lamb of God" **(SUNG)** Music Page 92

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Banquet

We now partake of communion by eating and drinking the elements.

(We invite everyone who believes in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and who is eligible to receive the Sacrament in their own congregation to commune with us today.

***Table Blessing**

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

C Amen

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P/A Let us pray. God of abundance...

C with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Sending

***Blessing**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father † and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***Announcements and sharing time**

***Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Pantry Update

If you wish to donate needed food, Jackie has requests that all food must be direct from the store and not come from your house to mitigate the number of places that may spread the COVID 19 virus. These are additional precautions due to the current health concern. If you want to drop off food items please leave a phone message and leave outside the church by the side door.

Money donations are always needed and welcome.

Scripture Lessons for Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2020:

Acts 17:22-31

Paul's message to the Athenians

Psalms 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

1 Peter 3:13-22

The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

John 14:15-21

Christ our advocate

Current Prayer Concerns: Hilary Lew, Dottie Davis (Sister of Patty Jones), Kristina Perfetti (niece of Faye Jones & Kay Malinowtizer), Julia and Tom (Daughter and friend of John and Barb Edwards), Krystalle (Daughter of David Paskiet), John Einlenberger, Don and Vicki Lishman, Michele Crompton (Friend of Patsy Litts and John Young), Margo Kovacs, Don Killeen, Gloria Killeen, Ben Huffman, Jason Guzman (Family of the Prides and Madeline McCarron), Robert (Mick) Perfetti (Brother-in-law of Kay and Faye), Lester Campbell (Friend of the Clements Family), John Tufano, Charles Farley, Shane Balcik, John O' Connor, Jr., Jeffrey Wert, Jr., Javon Clements, Rosemary Gilchris (Friends of the Clements Family), Richard Rouzer, Kay Malinowitzer, Lori Osmun (Friend of Carrie Strohl).

Prayer Concerns: Winnie Handel, Charlie and Alice Farley, Ken Brown, Charlie Roth (Brother-In-Law of Tom McGhee), Sonji Patrick, Sulai Malpica, Sarah and Felder Dorn (Friends of Madeline McCarron and Laura Pride), Marilyn Fackelman and Richard Sucky, (Mother and Father-in-law to Barbara Hart), Edith Patrick, Donald Killeen, Sr. (Don's Father), Joe Widmer (Son of Gloria Killeen), Sal Manda, Tatanisha Clements, Mario Vincenzino (Uncle of Stephanie Stephens), Stella Rouzer (granddaughter of Linda & Rich Rouzer), John Jones (brother of Madeline McCarron and uncle of Laura Pride), John Kennedy (father of Jackie McGhee), Shirly Bodine & Lou Costello (friends of Joan Carpenter), Bill Kilmurray (family of Kim Kilmurray), Donna Geilmann (sister of Marylee Rehm), Aaron Smith, Robin Mason (daughter of John and Patsy Litts-Young), Lee Jennings and Ann Falzone (friends of Sal and Noreen Manda), Ron & Mary Smith (cousins of Tom & Judy Smith and Frank & Emma Smith), Angel Berrios, Tiffany Bass (friend of Tracey Lasslett), Lois Morris, Doris Cramer, & Charlotte Jewell (friends of Ruth Ann Rumbold), Ken Werkheiser, and Sue Werkheiser (grandparents and aunt of Meredith Smith).

Our Service men and women: Nicholas & Ian Hopkins, Christina Perez, Raquel Berrios, Luke Biddulph, Corey Walton, Case Hofgen (cousin of Tim Lasslett), and Angela Anglada (niece of Lisa Dassaro).

Those in Personal Care Homes: Mary Hamlen.

Please e-mail or call the office if you have anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List, or need any other information.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President: Laura Pride	570-807-6114		
Vice President: Carrie Strohl	570-656-5600		
Secretary: Kay Malinowtizer	570-242-3157		
Laura Biddulph	570-369-0359	Patricia Clements	570-856-7433
Tom McGhee	570-994-4169	Dick Rehm	570-350-2615
Faye Jones	570-223-8035	Sal Manda	570-242-0401
Joy Donnelly	570-807-5592	Tracy Lasslett	570-234-4808

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Treasurer: Don Carr	Financial Secretary: Dana Strohl
Church Secretary: Lynne Williams	Organist: Dave Libecap
Choir Director: Katherine Ertle	Junior Choir: May Ertle
Contemporary Music and Praise Band: Chris Matthy	