

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2024
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded
Holy Communion, Setting One

Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.

Prelude - *Allegretto* by Cesar Franck

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

C **Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
 2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;
 5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.
 now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.
 my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.
 where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made
 For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,
 He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;
 "Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.
 he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
 the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.
 he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.
 who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.
 Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

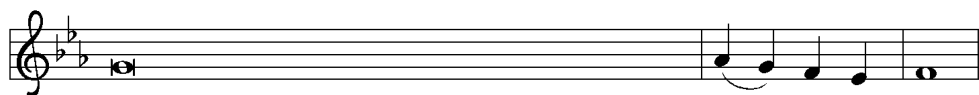
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



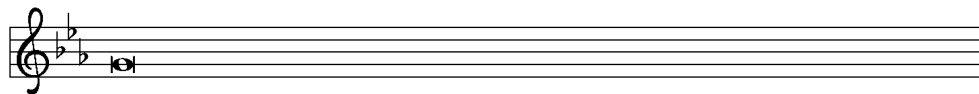
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



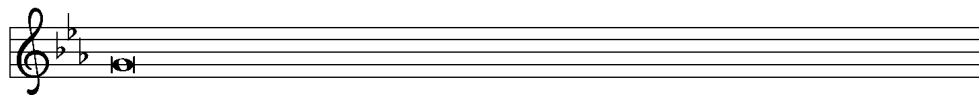
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise – This is the feast...

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



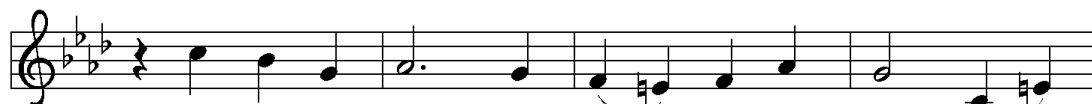
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



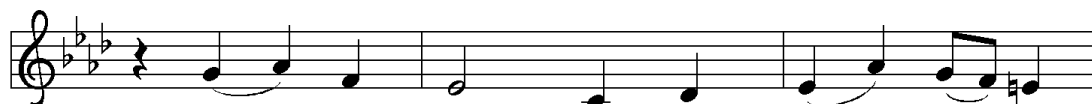
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

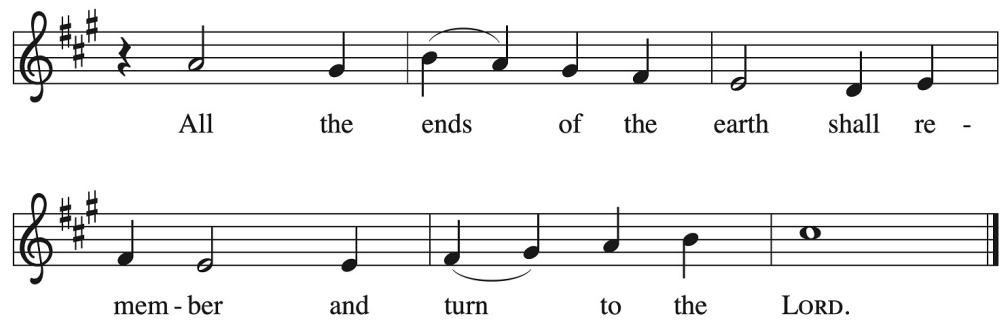
³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22:25-31

Congregation sings Refrain and bold verses.

Refrain



²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. *Refrain***

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" *Refrain*

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

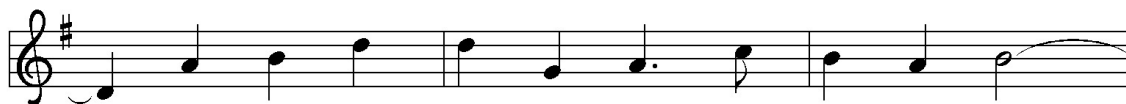
We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
 Text © John B. Geyer.

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NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*) Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Mary, John, Tom, Doug, Alice, Charlie, Pat, Karl and Otti, Larry, Karen, Anna, Deb, Fran, Pat, Bill, Linda, Joan, Susan, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - *Improvisation on ELW 378 (8:30); Ev'ry Good and Perfect Gift by Chester Alwes (11:00)*

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray together

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

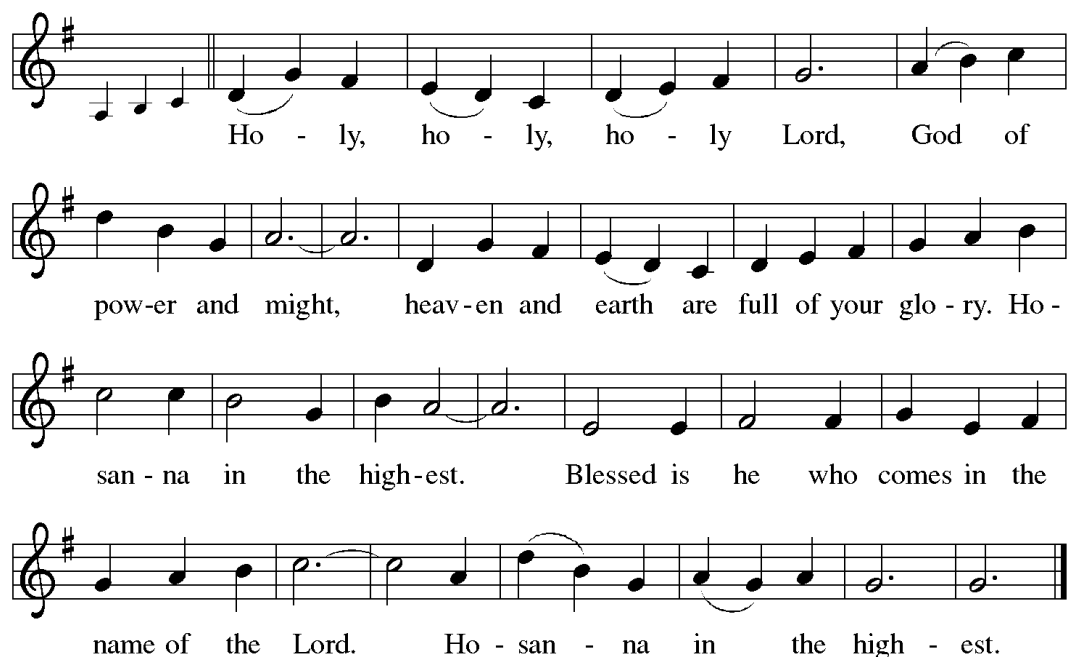
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The music consists of a single melodic line on a five-line staff.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

Communion Hymn – Let Us Break Bread Together

471

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.


The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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


C Amen

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude - *Risoluto* by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Charlie Bock, Pat Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Larry Grovenstein, Karen Shoaf (on deployment in Iraq), Anna Snyder, Deb Tabert, Fran Whitfield, Pat Cashwell, Bill Dahl, Linda Foreman, Joan Albright, Susan Esposito

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Scott Duncan (stepdad of Bill Elkin), Lindsay Marchell-Holman (family of Deb Tabert), Dave and Missy Pepper (brother and family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and family (husband and family of Leslie Johnson), Keith and Vernice Knudsen (father and mother of Ken Knudsen), Sara (sister of Marlene Coulter), Olga Nikitin (by Patrick Chappel), Joan Mayfield (aunt of Pat Casper), Vera Wiggins and Tony Jeeter (by Amy Elkin), Don Barger (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Wini Robison (Aunt of Megan Cunningham), Leigh Stock

Adult Sunday School classes – Here are our leaders and their topics:

Classes will meet in Trinity Hall at 9:45-10:45 am. Coffee available!

- ▶ April 28 – Aaron Klink – End of life decision making in Faith
- ▶ May 5 – Dedication of Lutherwoods: St. Paul's Preschool Outdoor Education space
- ▶ May 12 – David Franzen: Mental Health and Faith
- ▶ May 19 – St. Paul's Constitution Review/Updates Question and Answer Session #1
- ▶ May 26 – St. Paul's Constitution Review/Updates Question & Answer Session #2

Thursday Morning Bible Study: The topic for Thursday's Bible Study is the Gospel according to Mark. They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

Young In Spirit – Wed, May 8 at 11:30 am

Come travel with us as Tim and Kim Hoke share their travels to the southeast Asia countries of Vietnam and Cambodia. Bring your own lunch – there will be dessert to share. This will be our last gathering for now – we will resume meeting in September.

Nursery care – We are presently without a nursery caregiver on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer at either the 8:30 or 11:00 am service, please contact Pastor Scott.

If you are interested in becoming an honorable St. Paul's Bus Driver, please contact Larry Hawley at 919-972-9344 to arrange a training session!

St. Paul's Readers, May 16 at 3 pm Please join us on Thursday, May 16, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall as Kim Hoke leads our discussion of *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny. This mystery is about many things – the effects of a pandemic on society, for one – but mostly it is about family. How to find it in the most unexpected of places. The secrets that we keep from each other. And how far we would go to protect those we love. Chief Inspector Gamache and the village of Three Pines, Quebec, emerge from the pandemic to confront something even more monstrous. The chancellor of the local university is hosting a lecture on statistics. The community considers this a dry topic until they realize that the number crunching concerns the benefits that would accrue from mercy killing. The subject matter polarizes audiences violently with angry crowds gathering on both sides. The lecturer approaches a tipping point, with endorsements from politicians and others who make her radical ideas appear more reasonable, even tenable. The inevitable murder that follows on the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve strikes painful chords in everyone. No one balances tight plotting, compassion for her flawed characters, and a broader vision of humanity like the author Louise Penny.

UMD (Urban Ministries Durham) Food Prep! We will volunteer our services on the third Saturday of each month, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Next date is **May 18, 2024**. During the shift, you will prep for the dinner meal and serve lunch. Sign up online at this site: http://bit.ly/UMD_Signup Volunteers must be 13 years old, must wear closed toed shoes and shirts that cover armpits. Hairnets and aprons are provided – you can bring a hat and apron as well. Urban Ministries is located at 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Anderson at andersona1129@gmail.com

Take the Duke Lutherans Survey – We'd Love Your Feedback!

Calling all students, alumni, parents, partner church members, campus partners, and supporters! The Duke Lutherans are building a 3-year strategic plan and we'd love your help! Your feedback will guide us as we look to our future with hope and expectation. simply click on the Google survey link (<https://forms.gle/2LTXB6qHm6V2ZaCJ7>) to submit your responses by April 30. Thank you so much for your partnership in our mission to share God's gift of life together! If you have any questions or problems taking the survey, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Amanda (amanda.highben@duke.edu) or DL Committee Chair Cindy Snyder (cindysnyder24@gmail.com).

The Durham CROP Hunger Walk is celebrating 50 years of walking to end hunger in our community and around the world! Even though the Crop Walk took place on Palm Sunday, you are still invited to make a donation here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-pauls-lutheran-church-of-durham>

The next Social Ministry committee meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm** in Whitesell Hall. All church members and regularly attending visitors are always welcome to join us; hope to see you there!

Volunteer Opportunities with ongoing Social Ministries:

Urban Ministries: Volunteers to serve lunch at UMD's "Community Café" on the 3rd Saturday of each month: sign-up link: bit.ly/UMD_Signup

Creation Care: New CC team members to assist with the increasing number of CC projects

The Refugee Support Team: Additional female drivers

Camp Destiny & Burton Magnet Elementary (BME) Community:

BME - Volunteers to read 1:1 with 1st graders* - weekly commitment on your choice of weekday/s

BME - Volunteers to assist students with homework during afterschool program* - weekly commitment on your choice of weekday/s

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

The Youth and leadership who are traveling to New Orleans in July for the ELCA National Youth Gathering, have discovered some additional items we need to purchase before the trip: 48 t-shirts with our printed logo, clear backpacks, water bottles, buttons to trade, and shuttles to and from the airport and hotel. We estimate the extra cost to be \$3,500. Donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped in the offering plate or finance drop box in the hallway, noting Youth Gathering. Many thanks!

Growing Thru Grief

Growing thru Grief is continuing to offer grief support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Here is our schedule for May.

May 7 "Yoga and Healing," by Anne Rea

May 14 "Practices and Rituals in Times of Grief: Considering What Supports Your Journey," by Jim Lewis

May 21 To be Determined

May 28 "The Grief Wheel" by Lindsay Gallo

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, from 4 to 6 pm. All are welcome.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

Keep it coming! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul's shelf. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

You're Invited
to the dedication of
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Luther Woods

Sunday, May 5th @ 10am

We will gather to dedicate this space and thank our many volunteers who helped create this space. The outdoor classroom supports our sense of belonging, and children need regular interaction with nature to thrive and care for our world.

Please note that this outdoor classroom follows an uneven path into the woods.