

St Paul's and St. Matthias Lutheran Churches
Service of the Word
May 2, 2021

P: Pastor **V:** Vicar **C:** Congregation **VC:** Voice of Congregation **WA:** Worship Asst.

PRELUDE “Rondo” by Handel (Played by Dr. Will Goetze)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

V: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
P: Amen.

GATHERING

V: You are invited to sing along while muted at home.

HYMN “O Master, Let Me Walk With You” ELW #818

(Sung by Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ and Rob Toth)

1. O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
3. Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
4. In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

GREETING

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

V: And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE “Glory Be To God” (setting 10 ELW pg. 204)

(Sung by St. Paul's Choir)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V: Let us pray. 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.
V: Amen

ANTHEM “Every Morning Is Easter Morning” *(Played by The Heart Beats)*

Barbara Christ, LaDelle Daly, Mary Anne Diel, Rosemary Fox, Doris Hanson, Diane Harrop, JoDee Hub, Phyllis Perron, Barbara Anne Shepard

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 John 4:7-21 *(Read by Matthew Brockmeier)*

WA: A reading from the book of First John the fourth chapter.

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.

WA: The Word of the Lord.

V: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia, Lord and Savior" Setting 10, ELW p 205
(Sung by Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ and Rob Toth)



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8 (Read by Judy Ormsby)

WA: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth chapter.

V: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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.”

WA: The Gospel of the Lord.

V: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: “Nicene Creed” *(Read By Linda Toth)*

V: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 *(Prayers provided by Carol Dunn.)*
(WA: Read by Dennis Latson) (VC: Read by LaDelle Daly)

Invitation to Prayer

WA: We pray for your people everywhere, those who have learned of your love and mercy and those who have yet to learn. May those who follow you live their lives so they show others what it means to be your people.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

Prayer

WA: Guide our churches, our clergy and lay leaders so they help us know and follow your will.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: God, your Son said he is the vine on which we live and grow. May we, as the fruit of that vine, be plentiful and nutritious for the world.

VC: Be with us, God

WA: We are grateful for the vaccines that have been developed, and for the medical community which has administered them. As the world returns to something closer to what we think of as normal, remind us to behave with respect for others. Help the suffering throughout the world, and lead us in our nation so we may help others elsewhere.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: Ours is a nation committed to liberty and justice for all. We ask that you help our law enforcement agencies carry out those principles, without prejudice and without abuse of their power. This is the essence of their oath; guide them to fulfill it.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: Sometimes we sing for the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all. Make those words resonate in our hearts and minds so that we look to bring people together, not to divide them by our words or actions.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: Help our government at local, state and national levels, God, to stand firmly for the benefit of all people. If old laws need to be updated because we no longer live in centuries past, give our legislators the strength to do that. Grant them judgement to respect the integrity of each citizen, and provide everyone with the opportunity to vote, to work and to play, to act in accord with your will for us.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: The president has proposed a far-reaching bill to strengthen education at all levels, assist families in food and rental need, and help with child care so no child is left unattended, hungry, unschooled, or homeless. Help us encourage our legislators to find ways to proceed with this bill for the benefit of all.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: Our national church has signed on to the [Safe from the Start initiative](#) to strengthen training and mitigate risks for gender-based violence. Among the goals are to increase protection and empowerment of all women and girls, and institute congressional reporting requirements to ensure progress and accountability. Help us support that action, God.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: God of love, there are churches and legislatures across our nation encouraging and enacting bills to exclude or penalize some of our siblings. A group which makes up less than one percent of our population – transgender young women- has suddenly become the feared enemy. Give us the courage to speak up, God, and defend these young women as they seek to live their lives as they believe you meant them to.

VC: Be with us- and with them- we pray.

WA: We pray for peace, God. Remind us that true peace comes from love and justice, not from force and oppression.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: We live in a time when many seek their own pleasures and their own satisfactions, often no matter what that may mean for others. Help our congregations to share our bounty- at the food rescue, at the door ministry, in our Outreach to the community. May we remember every time that what we have is what you have given us, so that we return a share of it to the church for its work.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: We know, God, that your forgiveness does not depend on our actions. But we also know that our faith, if there are no deeds to show that faith in action, is hollow. We ask your help that we may be doers of the word, not hearers only. Strengthen us to this purpose.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: Just God, we know we sin. We do so with intent as well as by inaction. But we seek reconciliation with you, to live our lives as you would have us do. Show us the way.

VC: Be with us, we pray.

WA: God of mercy, we ask you to look with kindness on those who are ill or grieving. We ask especially for Herb and Teresa (*Schaepering*), Mary (*Cramer*), Lou (*Saugstad*), Charles and Audry (*Klien*), Michael (*Perron*) and sons, Barbara (*Christ*), Dawn (*Miller*), Barbara Ann (*Shepherd*), Steve (*Wren*), Christina, James (*Glass*), Emmy (*Volenberg*), Marcia (*Engler*), Karen (*Braaksma*), Sharon (*Matusiak*), the family of Ed (*Fiordigigli*), John (*Gannon*), Pastor Dale (*Erickson*), Leilani (*Gabriele*), Charles (*Weaver*), Loretta (*Brockmeier*), John (*Toth*), Arthur (*Goetze*), the Taylor family, the Meeks family, the Pheasant family, and we ask also for the following whom we name aloud or in our hearts:

(Prayer leaders will pause and you are invited to unmute your mic and offer prayers.)

VC: Help us, we pray.

WA: For these things and all else that we need, we call on you.

VC: Amen.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING INVITATION

All that we have belongs to God. As we celebrate our unity as a community of faith and focus our hearts on the risen Christ, we joyfully give our offerings to the Lord. Our Offerings are an act of worship. Let us prayerfully consider our offerings.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High” #857 (*Played by Fremont Ogle*)
(*Sung by Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ and Rob Toth*)

OFFERING

To give your offering to St. Matthias, mail your offering to P.O. Box 1685 Safety Harbor, FL 34695. To give your offerings to St. Paul’s mail your offering to 407 S. Saturn Ave. Clearwater, FL 33755 or give online at www.stpaulsclearwater.org

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (VC: *Read by Chad Mowbray*)

P: Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating an earth of splendor and for making us into a people of your own.

With all the saints who have received your Word we worship you, holy God.

VC: We worship you, holy God.

P: We praise you for your eternal Word, for conquering the force of death, and for raising us up through the resurrection of our Lord. For your Word alive among us, we praise you, living God.

VC: We praise you, living God.

P: Breathe the Spirit of the risen Christ on us, that led by your Word we may honor your earth and its many peoples and serve all who are in need.

For your Word animating our Easter life, we bless you, loving God.

VC: We bless you, loving God.

P: All worship, praise, and blessing be to you, Source of life, Ruler of life, and Power of life, today and forever.

VC: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Read by Doris Hanson)*

VC: Let us pray,

**VC: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
*Bell***

**Give us this day our daily bread;
*Bell***

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
*Bell***

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
*Bell***

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

BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

P: Amen.

SENDING

V: You are invited to sing along while muted at home.

SENDING HYMN “Children Of The Heavenly Father” ELW #781
(Sung by St. Paul's Choir)

1. Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

DISMISSAL (*Congregation please unmute and respond with the words in bold.*)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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