

The background of the image is a vertical rectangular panel. The left portion of this panel is a solid, deep blue. The right portion features a soft, painterly depiction of a sky at dawn or dusk. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm, glowing orange and yellow near the horizon. Three dark silhouettes of birds are scattered across the upper half of the sky. In the lower half, the silhouettes of tall, thin grasses or reeds are visible against the bright, hazy light of the horizon.

Alleluia!
Christ is risen!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 189 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org or use the QR Code provided.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org

The Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday, April 20, 2025 Holy Communion 9:15AM

Musical Setting 1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Lift High the Cross

Craig Phillips

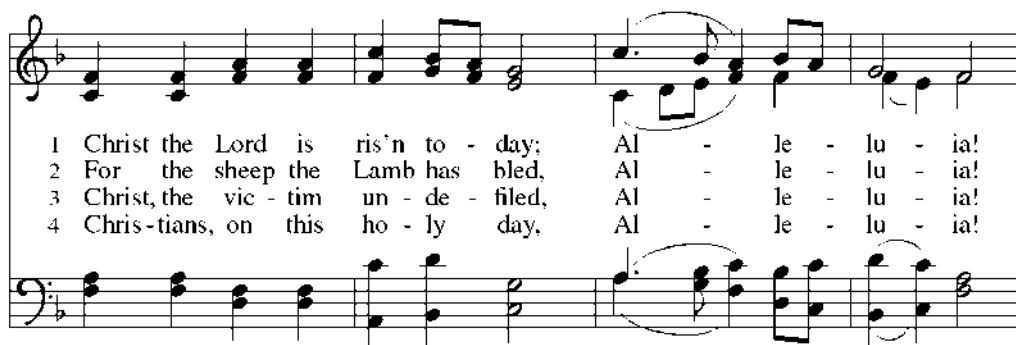
Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

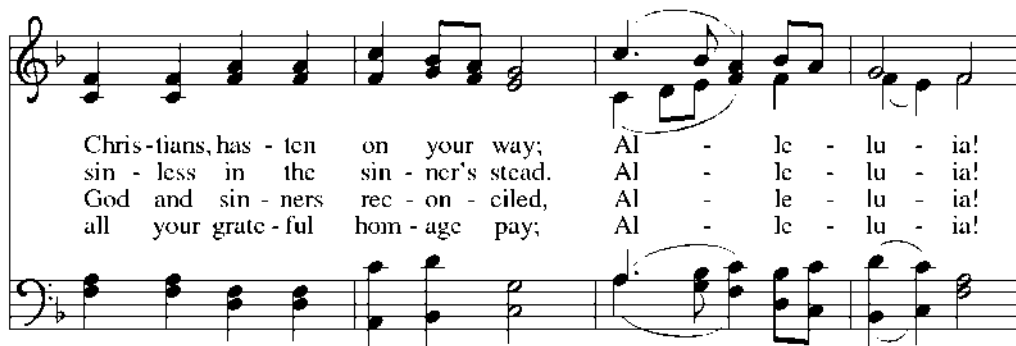
He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

ENTRANCE HYMN

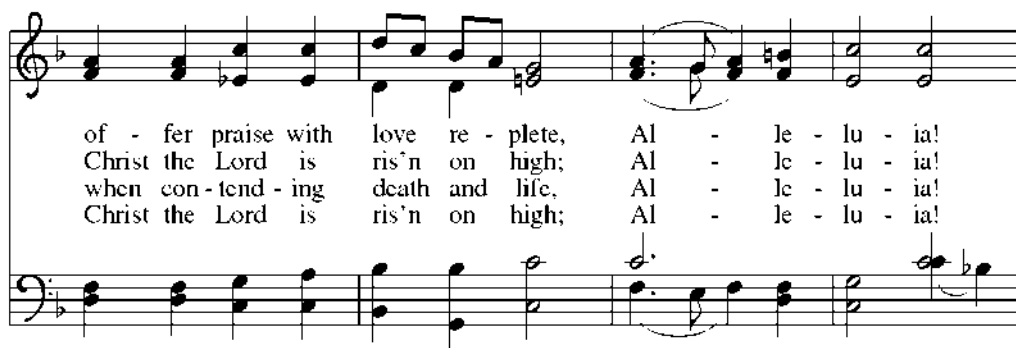
Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! (ELW 369)



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!

APOSTOLIC 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.**

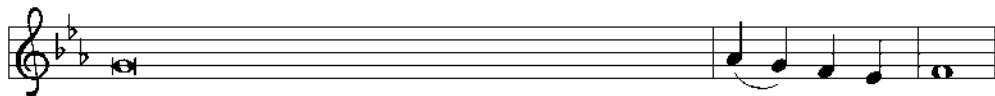
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



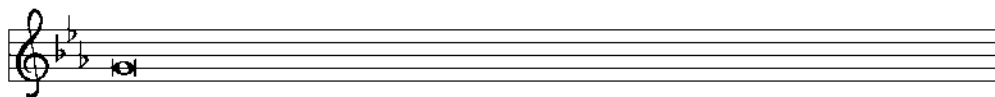
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



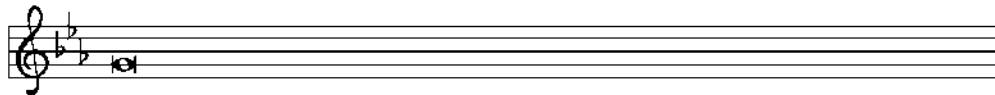
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

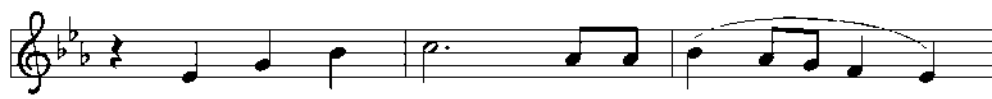


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



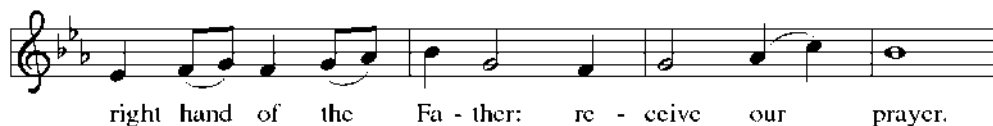
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34–43

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 118:14-24 The organ introduces the tone then it is sung by Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.



- ²⁴ On this day the | LORD has acted;*
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and he has become | my salvation.
- ¹⁵ **There is a sound of exulta- | tion and victory***
in the tents | of the righteous:
- ¹⁶ **"The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!***
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!"
- ¹⁷ I shall not | die, but live,*
and declare the works | of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has pun- | ished me sorely,*
but he did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the | gates of righteousness;***
I will enter them; I will offer thanks | to the LORD.
- ²⁰ **"This is the gate | of the LORD;***
he who is right- | eous may enter."
- ²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you | answered me*
and have become | my salvation.
- ²² The same stone which the build- | ers rejected*
has become the chief | cornerstone.
- ²³ **This is | the LORD's doing,***
and it is marvelous | in our eyes.
- ²⁴ **On this day the | LORD has acted;***
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

(back cover)

Stand

ALLELUIA

The Children's Choir arr. by Betty Ann Ramseth

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12 (*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

HANDBELL CHOIR

Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. Fred Gramann

Prelude and Fugue on Noel Nouvelet

Stand

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;
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.

Kindle new life in your church. Encourage us to boldly share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries (*local examples may be named*), that their work may plant seeds that flourish. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife (*places or situations may be named*). Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to the ways in which you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community. Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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 Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Chancel Choir

Christ the Lord is Risen Again

Alan Smith

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW 182)



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.

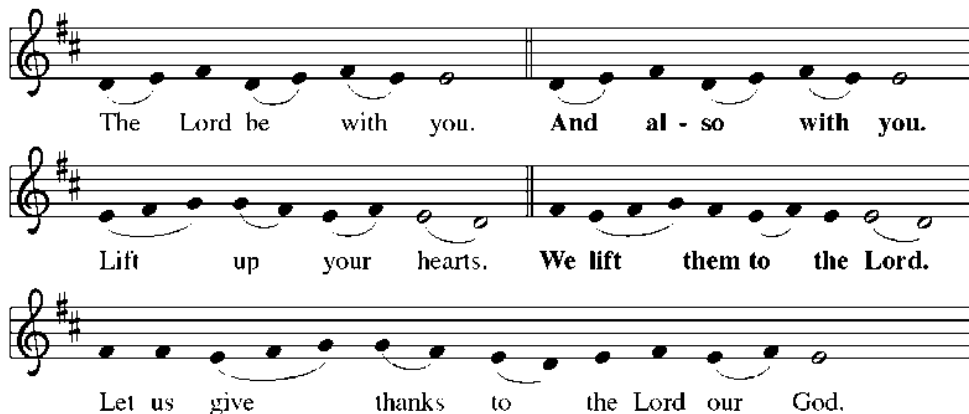
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

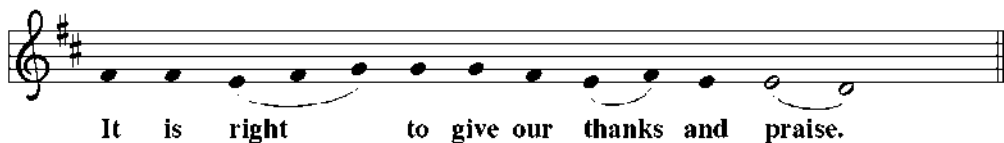
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE

Sung by Pastor and congregation



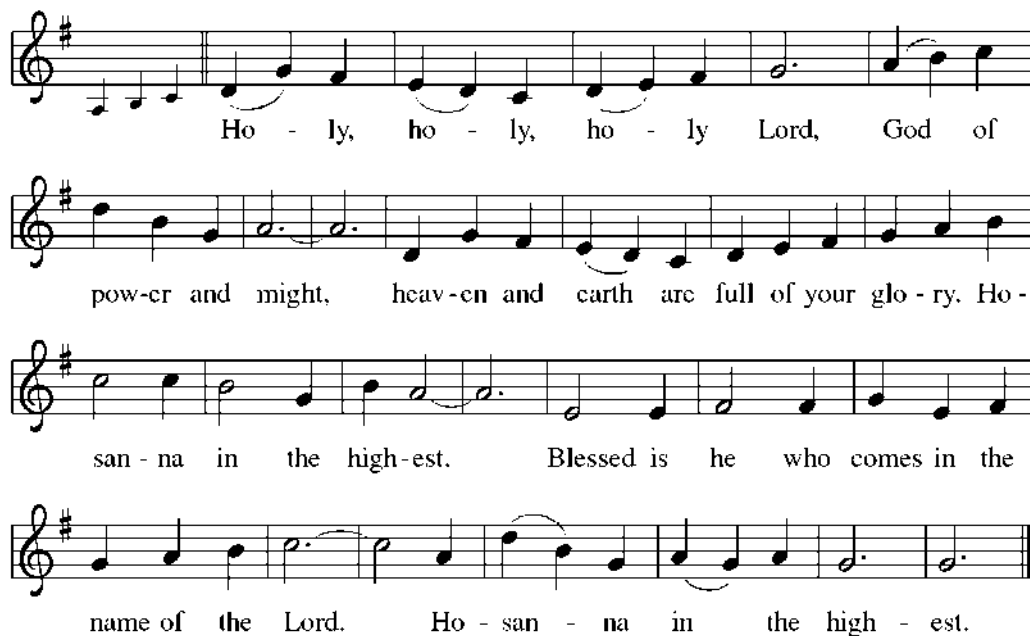
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in
beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the
kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he
comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor
and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

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

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

FRACTION RITE

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 the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI



Sit

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

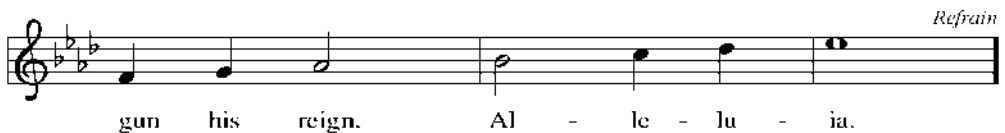
Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist. We receive communion by intinction today.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

COMMUNION CANTICLE

This is the Feast



This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - - row.
wake the dead in num - - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - - er.

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - - - en.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (ELW 365)

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Symphony V* *Charles-Marie Widor*

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A special thank-you is extended to all cantors who served during Holy Week and Easter Services.



The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in honor of Dylan Lauer's 14th birthday on this Easter Sunday by Sharon Diaczun And in memory of Josephine M. Cushner, John Cushner, M.D. and Mary R. Maxwell by Joanne Cushner Debes and Family

**Easter Musicians– Trumpet
Andrew Jones & James Palmer**

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers	1-Altar Set-up 2-ltar Clean -up
4/20 Easter	9:15 AM	Janet Fitch ACO- LYTE: Drew Herd- son, Isabella Lehr	Jacklyn Kinkella	Tristan Ericson	Rose & Jeff Riese, Tristan & Jessica Ericson	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Christian Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	1-Janet & Larry Moore, 2- Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

To the Glory of God . . .

Ann Anstadt
Victor Fields
Joe & Jen Guarriello
The Rosenmiller Family
Tina Llorente
Josh & Lisa Miller
Linda Turner



In Honor of . . .

My Children and Grandchildren by Ann Anstadt
The Reep Family by Ann Anstadt
My Children and Grandchildren by Nancy Banta
Emma's 18th Birthday by Kirsten & Sammy Barnes
My grandchildren, Alexis & Tom Heistand and Daniel, Ryan & Brynn Butler by June
Heistand
Our Family, Children, Grandsons & Gret Grandson by Earline & Frank Jones
Billee & Tim Couch by Richard Keeports & Family
Grandchildren; Christian, Amelia and Audrey by Dave & Susan Kopp
Son; Mark Mummert, Daughters; Amy Krichten & Lauren Lutz by Jim Mummert
Robert & Mary Reifsteck, Lillian Bahart and Annabelle Bahrt by Cheryl Reifsteck
Our Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren by Harold & Donita Sargeant
My Son & Daughter-in-law, Jake & Allison by Lois Ann Schroeder
My Great Grandchildren Jordan, Eli, & Spencer Nicoll, and Nicholas &
Emily Roedersheimer by Norma Spencer
My Children and Grandchildren by Martina Uffelman

In Loving Memory Of . . .

My husband, Henry Anstadt, by Ann Anstadt
My husband, Bill, his parents and my parents by Nancy Banta
Margaret Griffin, Paul, Jim, Robert, and Mildred Blake, Glen, Ruth & Mark Moyer,
Catherine & Ferrell Becker and Alice & Mike Vinik and Carrie Schmoyer
by Sammy & Kirsten Barnes
Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, MD, and Mary R. Maxwell by Jo Anne
Cushner Debes and Family by Joanne Cushner Debes and Family

Shirley Thornton by the Fellowship Committee.

Sarah Lucay by Dan, Kathryn & Henry Garber

Fathers; Francis Ports & Kenneth Hinkle, Mothers; Delores Ports & Ruth Hinkle,
Sisters; Sandra Hinkle, Dorinda Hinkle, & Susan Holtry by Ken Hinkle &
Jennifer Ports

Our Parents & Siblings by Frank & Earline Jones

William & Doris Douglas, Charles & Lucille Keeports by Richard Keeports & Family

Bob & Thelma Delancey by Angela Lauer

Beth Bell, Deb Zearfoss by Pat & Amy Lehr

Richard T. & Margie Martin, Michael T. Martin, Sandy & Dale Shellenberger,
Wilfert & Viola Wildasin; James & Julia Martin by Tom Martin

Our Dad, Brian Miller, by Josh & Lisa Miller

Our Parents; John & Mary Monk and Charles & Ruth Jones, by Kathy & John Monk

Loved ones by Pat Morse and the Deal Family

Parents David & Kathryn Mummert by Jim Mummert

Loved ones, Clarence Nicolaysen, William Eisenring, parents Meta & Herman Wacker
by Irmgard Nicolaysen

Our Parents by Norma & Ronald Riese

My Mother, Sister & Brothers, by Pat Rudacille

Our Parents, Harold & Grace Sargeant, and Donald & Bertha Spencer and grandson,
Dakota Walburn by Harold and Donita Sargeant

My Husband, Gary Schroeder by Lois Ann Schroeder

Isabella & Norman Rohrbaugh by Norma Shue

My Husband Don, Son Alan; Parents, Chester & Laura Ely, sisters Evelyn Loyd
& Lois McDowel by Norma Ely Spencer

My Husband, John, Sr by Martina Uffelman

Dorothy Bower by the Van Nattan & Waddail Families

Our Parents; Mary & Henry Weikert and Lois & Vernon Bull and the Stauffer Boys;
Wynn, Matt & Ben by the Weikerts

The Kain & Schein Families by Carol Kain Woodbury & John R. Schein, Jr.

***If you have sponsored Easter flowers you may take them home after the service.
Thank you for helping to beautify our worship space.***

This Week at St. Paul's
Church office open Mon–Thurs 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

9:15 AM Combined Service
6:30 AM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, April 21 Office Closed

6:30 PM Council Mtg

Tuesday, April 22

9:30 AM Pantry
11:00 AM Sub Sandwich Pick up till 11:30 AM
6:00 PM Property Committee
6:00 PM Sub Sandwich Pick up till 6:30 PM
6:00 PM CREATE—Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday April 23

10:30 AM Bible Study

Thursday, April 24

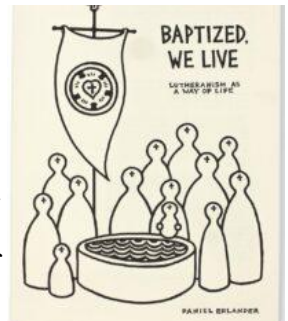
3:00 PM Book Club
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 27

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Adult Education—Christ Hall
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Life Stream-Baptism
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Baptized We Live—Lutheranism as a Way of Life
Continuing in May, 9:15 AM

During the season of Easter Pastor Reep will lead a class entitled “Lutheranism as a Way of Life”. The class serves as a refresher for Lutheran Christians. The classes will be held in Christ Hall at 9:15 AM. In addition, those wishing to unite with St. Paul’s Lutheran Church or adults desiring to be Baptized will do so at the combined 9:15 AM liturgy on Pentecost, June 8. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul’s Church or desire to be Baptized please notify the church office or speak with Pastor Reep.



The schedule of discussion topics follows:

May 4 A Way of Hearing May 11 A Way of Teaching May 18 A Way of Following

Mother’s Day Bake Sale—Sunday May 11
Proceeds Benefit our sister congregation,
Mpuguso Lutheran Church, Tanzania

St. Paul’s own Mpuguso Committee is sponsoring a Mother’s Day Bake Sale, May 11, to help the Mpuguso Lutheran Congregation complete the lower level of their church building. This part of their building project is not the cool neat stuff of chancels and nave, windows and doors, appointments and instruments. This part includes the practical things like restrooms and office for pastor and secretary and meeting room for small groups. If you would like to help with the bake sale; bake, set up, oversee the sale, clean up, or donate financially please contact any member of the team; Emily Reep, Tina Llorente, Jaclyn Kinkella, Maggie Dickerson or Martina Uffelman. Baked goods should be dropped off at the church on Saturday morning May 10 from 9:00 AM to Noon. In advance, thank you for supporting this important work.



Easter Day C, 2025

Luke 24

Old, the Great Pyramids are old. The Colosseum is old. The Battle fields in Gettysburg are old, but by a somewhat different standard. The bell in our church tower is old, as are the communion vessels used on the altar. The computer I bought when my youngest child was in tow and the sales associate asked if I needed it for “gaming,” it surpassed its life expectancy. I learned from a very nice gentleman a third my age that my computer was old! Not like the pyramids or the Colosseum or battle fields or the tower bell or communion vessels. How could this be? I took really good care of it for ten years!

Then the day came. It was morning. The new computer for the office arrived. Along with it came a young energetic technician. Dan stood by my side after transferring all of the information from the old machine onto the new one. He moved across the office away from the desk. He then asked me to enter my Apple password to confirm the software. In that moment I couldn’t differentiate my Apple password from my Netflix account. The security code digits to enter this building came to mind. Then suddenly my banking password and my medical insurance portal all seemed to be the same! I couldn’t remember any of them. In my panic, fear set in, would I be locked out if I couldn’t remember? Immediately I felt old! Dan’s reassuring voice calmed the fear brought on from the onset of SPA, sudden password amnesia. Dan said in so many words that when I would move from the current state of panic, when I was calm, that I would remember.

“Remember” The women at the tomb were told to remember. They didn’t have their brain cells used up by groupings of digits, letters, upper and lower case, and assorted symbols. Their brain cells were being occupied by experiences, memories of life shared, and the horrific events of Friday. They remembered to take the spices. They didn’t seem to remember about the stone but they found it was already rolled away. When they went in, panic, fear, perplexed is Luke’s word; it overtook them. They were comforted by two men in dazzling clothes standing with them. They spoke words to the women, words that called them to clear their minds and remember. *“Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”*

It was early dawn, perhaps too early to do much remembering. The women were completing their burial duty. Joseph of Arimathea had begun the work on Friday, but the Sabbath required rest. So, early the next morning the women resumed the task. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women. Their minds focused on the task at hand. They had prepared the spices for the rite of burial. They were going as quickly as they could after the Sabbath had ended. They were not prepared for what they found!

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It was as though Dan had asked them for their Apple password! They were perplexed and terrified. These descriptive words are adrenalin pumping, head spinning, and heart racing kinds of words. These are words that break into the quiet of the garden cemetery, the quiet of the morning sunrise, the quiet of the burial ritual. So, there they stand awe struck, dumbfounded, perplexed and terrified when those two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them and announced “*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.*” Remember.

Really, who could remember in such a moment? But the women were there, an entourage of some of the most faithful, loyal, devout followers being asked such a question, and at such an early hour, and in such grief, and in an empty tomb where they had presumed that their loved one would be in repose. “*Remember,*” that was what was asked of them. Remember.

There is a dominant theme in Luke setting the stage for things that must happen, for God’s plan for the world, to be revealed. Throughout the story there are times when Jesus’ closest family members and friends don’t understand what God is about to do. God is bringing about a new thing, a new way, a new life for all who believe. The two messengers simply ask his faithful followers to remember. There are plenty of times when in Jesus’ earthly life he pointed to the things that God was about to do. But it never seemed to sink in, people didn’t understand. It is difficult to remember something that you don’t understand. It is difficult to remember when you are anxious, filled with fear, perplexed. Jesus, as a boy, when he is lost in the temple, Mary and Joseph go back to find him. His response “*Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?*” But they didn’t understand. And in adult life, after a day of healing Peter’s mother-in-law, and all the sick people coming to Capernaum to be healed, Jesus departed from the group into a deserted place. And the crowds kept coming searching for him. When they found him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving, they wanted to keep this guy who fed them and healed them; they didn’t want to let him go. Jesus said to them “*I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also: for I was sent for this purpose.*” But they didn’t understand. On his way to Jerusalem he went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to city. Someone asked him “*Lord will only a few be saved?*” Jesus’ response, “*Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.*” But that gentleman and the crowd who had gathered around didn’t understand.

So, why would we expect the women at the tomb, on that early Easter dawn, to understand or be able to remember? When they shared the news with the eleven Disciples, they thought it all to be utter nonsense. The women didn’t get any help remembering from the eleven Apostles either.

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We gather on this Easter morning, an entourage of faithful, loyal, devout followers being asked to remember. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones who aren't anxious, or fearful, or perplexed about things going on around you. Maybe you are always clear headed and can remember things well. But for most of us, I suspect that life right now is throwing enough curve balls making it challenging to keep a clear head, remain hopeful, and to remember what God has done for us in Christ Jesus; what God has done for all people in Christ Jesus. Really remember all that is ours, all that has been done for humanity through the resurrected Christ.

We have relived those last events in his earthly life over the past week; Holy Week. We remembered the great lengths to which God spans to reach us, to keep us and all people from perishing. We gather to remember what God is doing for us right now in the Risen Christ whose Spirit envelops us and breathes life into us. We remember that we are a community, formed for relationship with God and with our neighbor. We gather to remember what God promises to do for us and for all who believe. We are given a future that is beyond human comprehension.

Because Jesus has fulfilled God's plan the disciples, who first think that the news from the tomb is utter nonsense, are commissioned to preach repentance and forgiveness. This is the same message of grace that is proclaimed to us. This message permeates our lives, when we are anxious, fearful, perplexed, in times of grief, in the stillness at the break of a new day, when we don't understand, or when we think that the whole thing is utter nonsense. Our sins are forgiven by the one who was handed over to sinful humans and was crucified and on the third day was raised. It may seem like an old story, but it is relevant now, as Christ comes to us, as Christ is with us.

What we don't find on Easter morning is a God who is vengeful, seeking punishment for wrongs committed, taking delight that we have messed up royally, or that we can't recite a precise code to gain access to Him. What we experience with God is forgiveness and a depth of love and compassion that is beyond human understanding. This may be an old story, but it is not old like the Great Pyramids, or the Colosseum, or the battlefields, or the tower bell, or communion vessels or technological devices. This message proclaimed by God's messengers is never out dated or obsolete.

Remembering, not a grouping of digits, letters, upper and lower case, and assorted symbols like are needed for streaming service, banking, medical portal or college fund passwords, but remembering that "*on this day the Lord has acted.*" The Lord has acted for you and for me and for your neighbor who may or may not have a clue about God's gracious love, mercy and compassion. Remembering is what brings us here this morning. God's desire for us and for the world is that we have a new life. We may forget a bit of it from time to time, but God's Word moves us from the panic of our forgetfulness to the calm of his forgiveness, mercy and love. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

or **Isaiah 65:17-25** [not printed]

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

or **Acts 10:34-43** [see First Reading]

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

or **John 20:1-18** [not printed]