

**IN MY  
FATHER'S  
HOUSE  
THERE ARE MANY  
DWELLING  
PLACES**

**JOHN 14:2**

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://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 190 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](http://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](http://stpaulsyork.org)

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

**Holy Communion 8:30 & 10:30 AM**

*Musical Setting 1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

*Mark Sedio*

**Stand**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia**

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367)*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

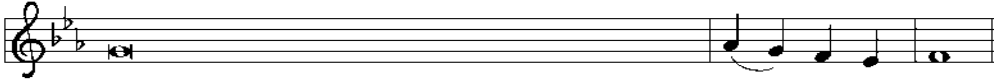
# KYRIE



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.



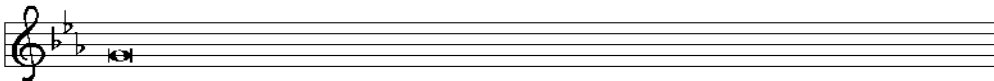
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

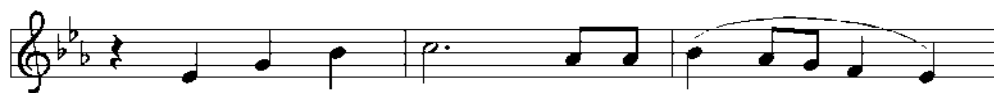


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



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



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Je - sus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**PSALM Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16** sung unaccompanied cantor/**congregation**

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\*  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;\***  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,\***  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

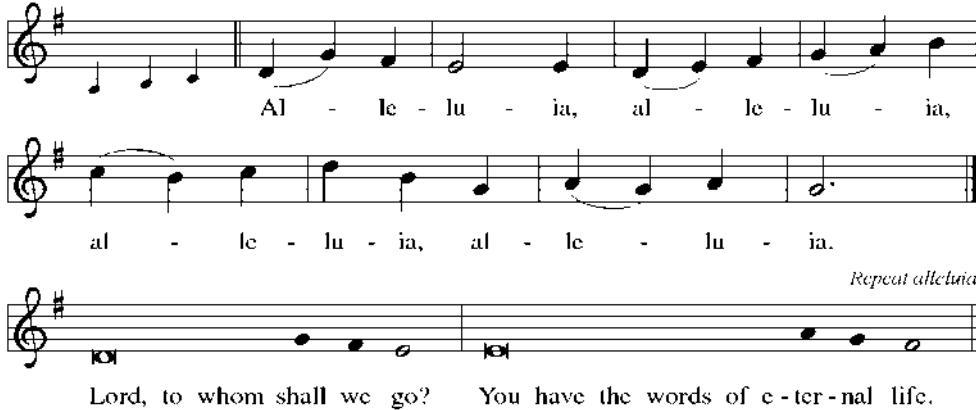
<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,\*  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are | in your hand;\***  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Make your face to shine up- | on your servant,\*  
and in your loving- | kindness save me."

**READING 1 Peter 2:2-10** (*back cover*)

*Stand*  
**ALLELUIA**



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.

**HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1-14** (*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John  
*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*  
**SERMON**

Pastor Stanley Reep

*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**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world,  
let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Hearten lay  
leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast  
love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You speak and bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Soothe those in distress. Console all who grieve. Provide for any in need and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You call us together forming a community of faith. Use us for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who gave witness to your mighty acts in word and deed and who now rest in your embrace. At the last bring us all into your eternal home. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

## **Sit**

### **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

8:30 AM	Organ	<i>For the Bread Which You Have Broken</i>	Gerald Near
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir	<i>With a Voice of Singing</i>	Martin Shaw

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*This is Christ's Body (ACS 967)*

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love.  
with mer - cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,

bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**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**

**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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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**

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.

## 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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



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.

*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*

*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



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 -

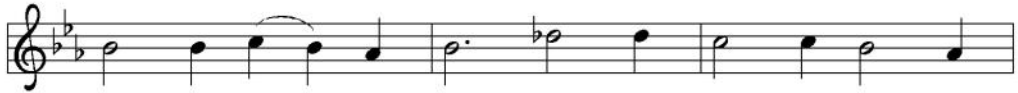


gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

10:30 AM COMMUNION HYMN *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (ELW 816)*



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a  
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a  
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys in love.

**Stand**

**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** *Hallelujah (ELW 380) next page*

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

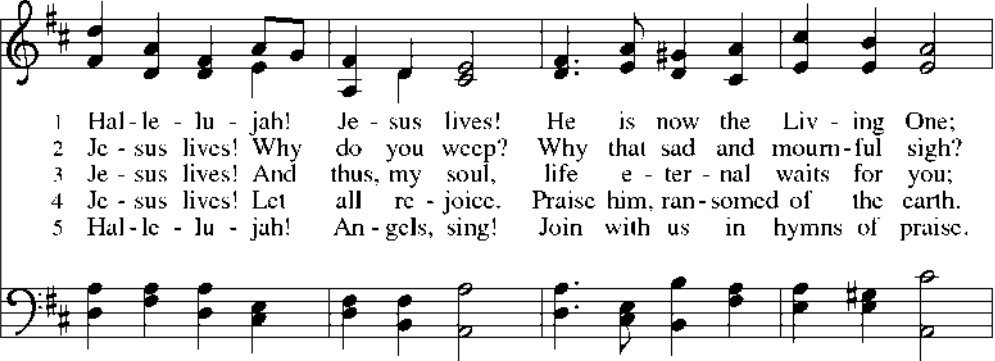
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

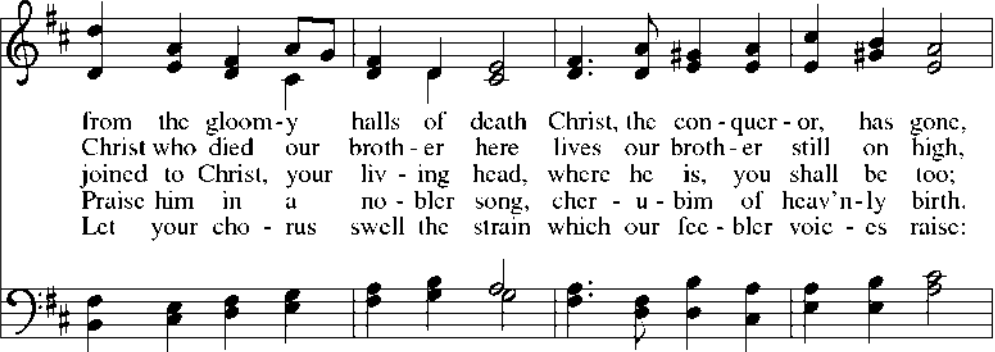
*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

*Wilbur Held*

# Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?  
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.  
5 Hal - le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,  
Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,  
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.  
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voi - ces raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.  
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.  
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.  
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

**TODAY May 3 Matinee Musical Club of York piano recital 3:00 PM**

**St. Paul's Church**

Come and hear some of York's finest young pianists ages 8-18 perform in concert on the church's magnificent Steinway Concert grand piano. This is the annual Piano Competition and the caliber of playing is extraordinary. This event is free to the public.

**This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Fri 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

**Sunday, May 3**

- 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream
- 11:45 AM Benevolence Committee—Christ Hall
- 3:00 PM Matinee Musical Club Recital
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

**Tuesday, May 5**

- 9:30 AM Pantry

**Wednesday, May 6**

- 10:30 AM Bible Study— Christ Hall

**Thursday, May 7**

- 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

**Saturday, May 9**

- 8:00 AM Oswald Cemetery Clean-up

**Sunday, May 10**

- 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream

The Oswald Cemetery project has been rescheduled for Saturday May 9 @ 8 am at the cemetery. If you are able to help on this rescheduled date please respond to [riese4@verizon.net](mailto:riese4@verizon.net) or call me at 717-891-3058 for more details. Thank you for your consideration. Jeff Riese

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God*



**Serving the Lord with Gladness**

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean - up	Bread Bakers
5/3	8:30 AM	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	Connie Reed	Todd & Helen Marstellar	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke	Pat Rudacille
5/3	10:30 AM	Geoffrey Simon	Jaclyn Kinkella	Anna Herdson	Johanna & Joshua Patterson	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker & Isabella Lehr	Ann Anstadt

**Vacation Bible School** is June 7-11. The sessions take place in the evening from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Registrations forms are available at the entrances to the church and were in the newsletter. As always, helpers are needed. Please contact the office to volunteer.

**Summer Church Camp** for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald are posted online. Check out the fabulous offerings. Scholarships are available through St. Paul's Church. See Miss Kelly for details.

**Altar Flowers** beautify our worship space. Please consider providing flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The chart is posted on the Springettsbury Ave. Bulletin board. The cost is \$40 per vase.



Spring cleaning closets? Consider **donating clothing to help Union Lutheran Church** with their clothes closet. Bring items to St. Paul's and we will deliver them for you. Or contact Union Lutheran and they will arrange a time for you to take them directly to their closet.

Thank you for supporting the **Bake Sale for Mpuguso Lutheran Church**, Tanzania last Sunday. We raised \$1,568.10!

Thank you for supporting the breakfast last Sunday. The donation container was a bit off the beaten track, but The Men of St. Paul's added \$387 in support of **Lutheran World Relief**.



### **Summer Sunday Fellowship Time Weekly Following the 9:30 AM liturgy**

Summer Sunday Fellowship is taking a page from the *Great British Baking Show*. We are featuring; Bread week, cupcake week, coffee cake week and so forth to try and keep us from getting in a rut. A sign-up sheet is on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room.



The **Summer Worship Schedule** begins on Memorial Day weekend (May 24, 2026). One liturgy at 9:30 AM with fellowship time to follow.



**St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs:** Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags, and monetary donations. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry". Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh to volunteer for Tuesday distribution days. Contact Patty Snyder to volunteer for Thursday delivery days or Sunday stocking days or contact the church office. Thank you to all who help!

**OUR FOOD PANTRY  
NEEDS CEREAL DONATIONS!  
HELP US FILL THE CEREAL BOX  
IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM.  
COLLECTION RUNS THROUGH MAY.**



It is not too late to **volunteer to share your musical talent** during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is available on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room. The Worship and Arts Committee has already begun their work of arranging for instrumentalists and ensembles for Sundays while Victor is on sabbatical.

**Will and Estate Planning Seminar  
Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM.—by Saxton & Stump**

Members of St. Paul's who attend the seminar will have the opportunity for Saxton and Stump to prepare a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Living Will at no cost to them through the generosity of St. Paul's Benevolence Fund. A sign-up sheet is in the Good Shepherd Room.



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is celebrating our 190th anniversary as a congregation.**

As part of honoring this historic occasion, we are undertaking a special project to recognize the legacy of our founding pastor, Jonathan Oswald. His family's burial plot at Prospect Hill Cemetery stands as an important reminder of our congregation's roots.

To honor his contribution and celebrate the church's long history, a planning committee has begun organizing a restoration and beautification effort for the Oswald family cemetery plot.

This effort will rely on the support of volunteers from our congregation and community. If you would like to assist with this project or learn more about ways to help, please contact:

Aaron Jacobs [ajacobs@scorecardsales.com](mailto:ajacobs@scorecardsales.com) 717-324-8133

**Easter 5 A 2026**

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

**John 14:1-14**

In 1953 Ralph Vaughan Williams composed an anthem for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The anthem sets the familiar text of Psalm 34:8 to a beautiful melodic line. *“O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: Blest is the man that trusteth in him.”* 1953 was a pivotal year giving definition to the post-war era. It was marked by the inauguration of Dwight Eisenhower, the death of Stalin, the end of the Korean War, a successful ascent of Mount Everest, and the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The world was seemingly moving away from troubling times. And moving away from troubling times it seemed that there were fewer troubled hearts.

In 2026, 73 years later, troubling times are pressing upon the global community. And with troubles rising so it seems are troubled hearts. There are a lot of troubled hearts these days. I foolishly thought for a short while during my lifetime that we were moving away from a time when troubled hearts reigned supreme. But, right now, it is harder to identify someone who doesn't have a troubled heart. *“Let not your hearts be troubled”* said Jesus to his followers. And yet here we are with troubled hearts.

Kids struggling in school – troubled hearts.

Police, firefighters, and social workers strapped for resources to do their jobs – troubled hearts.

Fruit and vegetable farmers who need day workers to tend and harvest their crops – troubled hearts.

State representatives and our governor have things causing troubled hearts.

And I don't need to mention specific things in Washington DC; it seems that there is plenty going on causing troubled hearts for liberals, conservatives, and the seeming few moderates that remain.

Jesus identifies troubled hearts differently than most of us. He connects troubled hearts with lack of believe or no belief in God. That is where that beautiful Psalm text brings something to bear, *“O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: Blest is the person that trusts, believes, takes refuge in him.”* Jesus is, at least through the writings of St. John, wanting everyone to believe in him, to believe in God. For his earthly fisherman-tax collecting-religious leader-prostitute-healed-and-fed followers, belief is what banishes troubled hearts. He reassures them that he is all about making room, creating space, building mansions, so that there is enough room for all.

This is news that calms troubled hearts, at least for those who have always been on the outs, the outs with family, the outs with society, the outs with religious community, the outs with government. Like anyone troubled with issues of acceptance and belonging, Thomas and Philip, each in their own way, want to make sure that they are on the right track. Thomas wants to know the way. Philip wants the satisfaction of seeing the “Father.” Jesus responds to both telling them that he is the way and that if they see him then they have seen the Father. Belief is what is being stressed. Can they, will they, do they have the capacity to believe? Do we, will we, do we have the capacity to believe?

In *The Small Catechism* Luther writes that *“I cannot by my own understanding or strength believe in Christ Jesus my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he*

*calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Christ Jesus in the one common, true faith.”*

Luther is a help to us when we, like Thomas and Philip, start asking questions about how and what we must do to believe. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the work of God. It is grace! “It is what we receive from God, mercy. When Luther penned the text of *The Small Catechism*, he was on the outs with the religious authorities in Rome and on the outs with the political authorities in his region. Luther, like Thomas and Philip before him, wanted to know the way and wanted satisfaction that he was going to make the mark. It is through the fidelity of the Holy Spirit, of God’s spirit, of the one who pours himself out for the world, for anyone and everyone who find themselves on the outs; of peer groups, colleagues, families, community leaders, religious institutions, and political leadership. “*Don’t be troubled*” says Jesus, believe. “*Believe in me*” he says to the trouble hearted. “I am” making a way for you. Trust in me.

A similar understanding is shared in the *First letter of Peter*. He writes “*but 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.*” In the word and water of Holy Baptism the Spirit of God is poured forth and we are claimed, you are claimed, I am claimed. We receive abundant mercy.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Martin Luther sought to proclaim such a grace-filled message to the citizenry who daily were overcome with troubled hearts. Had they said enough prayers, had they spent enough time meditating at relics, had they purchased enough indulgences, had they made religious pilgrimages, all of which were needed to meet the demands of the religious system and to be welcomed into the embrace of God. “*Show us the way*” asked Thomas of our Lord. “*Give us satisfaction*” demanded Philip. Their hearts were troubled by many things, so were Christians in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and so are ours now in 2026.

“*There’s new life in Jesus, lift up your hearts,*” the preschool children sing. We sing a version of it too, “*Lift up your hearts*” we sing in the Eucharistic dialogue “*we lift them to the Lord*” responds the gathered assembly. Our hearts, laden with fear and trouble, are properly placed upon the Lord who takes all our troubled hearts to the cross; he suffers with and for us, dies as one with us, and is raised up so that all may share in his glory, his ever-living abundant life. He tells his followers “*Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me*” so that you will have life, know life, live life, give life, share life, now and always.

Will I still have anxious moments? Yes. Will I wonder if what I have done is enough? Yes. Will these and other things trouble my heart? Yes. Is it possible to learn from disciples like Thomas and Philip, to learn from writers like Peter and Luther, and to learn from the Father’s only Son, Jesus himself? Yes. And will the Mighty Acts of God be proclaimed? Yes, so that all people will know that they are chosen and precious and called into God’s marvelous light. With such proclamation troubled hearts are certain to be relieved. That is the freeing message of Jesus. The message Thomas and Philip heard, the message that Peter wrote to the early Christian community, and Luther wrote for the citizenry in 16<sup>th</sup> century Germany. It is a message composed by Vaughan Williams and sung at a coronation. “*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: Blest is the one that trusts in him.*” It is the message that we proclaim today in words and water and bread and wine, so that all troubled hearts will believe and know peace. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then 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. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then 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.

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16****SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup>like 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. <sup>6</sup>For 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.”

<sup>7</sup>This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

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

<sup>8</sup>and

“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.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,

a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus 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’? <sup>10</sup>Do 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. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very 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. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

Cover: *Castle and Sun (Burg and Sonne)* by Paul Klee, 1928. Photo by yigruzeltli. WikiArt. Public domain.

Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org).  
Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. Tracks 1 and 2  
ITEM014974 ELCA-R