

*“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”*

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

May 3, 2026

10:30 AM

**Easter 5**

*After the ringing of the bell...*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our darkness and our light, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ through the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed in God’s mercy and forgiveness.

**Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word  
you spoke the amazing diversity of the world into being,  
**from darkness you brought forth light in rainbow colors,**  
from darkness you brought forth varieties of seeds and trees,  
**from darkness you brought forth animals of every size and kind,**  
**birds of the air and fish of the sea.**

And lastly, from darkness,  
you brought forth humanity in your own image,  
**of all colors and shapes,**  
**people able-bodied and disabled;**  
and, having called forth creation  
and recognizing your image reflected in myriad ways,  
**you took delight and called it good.**

Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family.

**By the Jabbok river, you wrestled with Jacob,**  
**named him Israel and gave him a holy limp.**

At the Red Sea, through Moses, your stuttering servant,  
you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom on dry land.

**At the River Jordan, your Son was baptized by John**  
**and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

By water and your Word, you claim us as your children,  
heirs of your promise and hope for the world, servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of this water that sustains life,  
and above all we thank you for the gift of new life  
received in the many-gifted, resurrected body of Jesus Christ.

**By your grace, shower us with your Spirit,  
renew us in your forgiveness,  
embrace us in your love.**

**We give you honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

*I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*

*LBW #352, vs. 1,6-8*

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my everliving head!**

**6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
he lives and loves me to the end;  
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

**7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
he lives my mansion to prepare;  
he lives to bring me safely there.**

**8 He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
What joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Blessing, Honor, and Glory*

**R#151**

Blessing – honor - glory to the Lamb  
Holy – righteous - worthy is the Lamb  
Death could not hold Him down  
For He is risen  
Seated upon the throne  
He is the Lamb of God  
Blessing - honor - glory to the Lamb  
Holy – righteous - worthy is the Lamb  
Death could not hold Him down  
For He is risen  
Seated upon the throne

He is the Lamb of God.

Blessing - honor - glory to the Lamb

Holy righteous worthy is the Lamb of God.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**Amen.**

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> 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: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

<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 deliver 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 tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend 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 upon your servant,  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

### **SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### ALLELUIA VERSE

LBW p. 83

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

#### GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### PROCLAMATION

HYMN

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

WOV 672

*Sung to AUSTRIA (See LBW 540)*

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!**

**Celebrate this day of days!**

**Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:**

**All creation is amazed.**

**In the desert all-surrounding,**

**See, a spreading tree has grown.**

**Healing leaves of grace abounding**

**Bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits**

**From the caverns of despair.**

**Walk with gladness in the morning.**

**See what love can do and dare.**

**Drink the wine of resurrection,  
Not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion.  
Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and Heaven  
Nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
Where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
Christ is risen! Get you gone!  
God the First and Last is with us,  
Sing Hosanna, everyone!**

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**LBW p. 85**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends "Merciful God, receive our prayer."

#### **PEACE**

**LBW p. 86**

**The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,  
And also with you.**

*You may share the peace of the Lord with one another.*

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

**LBW p. 86**

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,**

**and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

**LBW p. 87**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

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

**LBW p. 89**

### **THANKSGIVING**

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.

**LBW p. 89**

Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW p. 91**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

**LBW p. 91**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.  
**Amen.**

### **HYMN**

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

*LBW #363, vs. 1-4*

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
In death his love shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
He comes to claim the here and now  
and conquer ev'ry place and time.**

**3 Not throned afar, remotely high,  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior with the Father reigns.**

**4 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
He suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, though ever crucified.**

**DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.*

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