

*“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 17, 2026

10:30 AM

**Easter 7/Worship Learning Sunday**

*After the ringing of the bell...*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**LEARNING**

*We begin by considering the elements of our worship together.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*Confession and Forgiveness or Thanksgiving for Baptism*

*On the day of Christ’s resurrection, and at other times, God gathers us in Christian assembly. We confess our sin and hear God’s word of forgiveness. We give thanks for God’s mercy in the gift of baptism.*

*When has the Confession and Forgiveness been an insight for your previous week directing you to become more Christ-like in your choices?*

*When has the pronouncement of forgiveness helped you start again in a relationship or fuel change for the future? When has this pronouncement simply given you a way to forgive yourself?*

**HYMN**

*Gathering Song*

*Singing at the gathering may include hymns old and new; prayers for God’s mercy to fill the church and the world; a canticle of praise to God’s glory revealed in Jesus Christ.*

*Tell or write the story about a song or hymn that changed your life.*

*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

*As the gathering of the faithful draws to a close, the pastor and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God. A leader gathers the assembly into prayer.*

**WORD**

***God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.***

*The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm sung in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God’s word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.*

*First Reading: Acts 1:6-14*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Psalm*

*SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Gospel*

The holy gospel according to John the 17th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth

that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Children's Sermon*  
*Proclamation*

*If you could be a preacher, what story about your faith would you share?*

### **HYMN**

*God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church. After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace.*

*Hymn of the Day*  
*Creed*  
*Prayers of Intercession*  
*Peace*

### **MEAL**

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.***

*Offering*  
*Setting the Table*  
*Offering Prayer*

*A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.*

***If you could bring any of your gifts in grateful response for all God's gifts, what might you bring? What gift might be hard to share?***

*Great Thanksgiving*  
*Dialogue and Preface*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.*

*Thanksgiving at the Table  
with Words of Institution*

**OR**

*Words of Institution*

*Lord's Prayer*

*The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise at the table. A full thanksgiving also includes praise to God for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.*

### **Communion**

*Communion Song*

*Prayer after Communion*

*In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. We sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.*

*When have you felt nourished by the meal of Christ's body and blood? How did that meal strengthen you or assure you and what did that strength or assurance allow you to do?*

## SENDING

***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

*Sending of Communion*

*Blessing*

*Sending Song*

*Dismissal*

*God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we remember our purpose and go out to live as Christ's body in the world.*

*Was there a time that you found yourself support by your presence at Sunday worship as you encountered something during your week?*

Why ?

**HYMN**

***Lift High the Cross***

**LBW 377**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

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