

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

7 Easter + Saturday, May 20, 2023



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## **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**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor, glory and might to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, your Son our Savior is with you in eternal glory. Give us faith to see that, true to his promise, he is among us still, and will be with us to the end of time; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from Acts.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.

<sup>2</sup>**Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to his name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens;  
YAHWEH is his name, rejoice before him!**

<sup>5</sup>Father of orphans, defender of widows,  
God in his holy habitation!

<sup>6</sup>**God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup>**the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

<sup>10</sup>**Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>33</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.

<sup>34</sup>**He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

<sup>35</sup>Ascribe power to God;  
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.

<sup>36</sup>**How wonderful is God in his holy places,  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!**

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

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

A reading from 1 Peter.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia! Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL: John 17:1-11**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth 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.**

## SERMON

### 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**

## **THE PRAYERS**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to wait upon your Spirit so that they may speak a message of peace and justice that unites us all in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering from isolation. Break the chains of all held fast by the many powers and systems of oppression. Give help, comfort and purpose to all who suffer from mental illness, and healing to all for are ill, especially now we ask your mercy on those whose names we speak in prayer, out loud, in our hearts or by listing online. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks that your church serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our pastor and intern, our church council and officers that true to your vision for the world in Christ they may lead us forward in our mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html). Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's mission through this congregation. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*



## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

**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

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 our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

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**

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

## **GREAT 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 ancestors, 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 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, amen, amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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 HYMN**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

#### **COMMUNION**

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

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WALKING AT MENLO MALL. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at the entrance to Nordstrom under the cover of the parking garage and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

**VBS PLANNING MEETING. Sunday, June 4, at 11:30 a.m.** If you are interested in helping out with VBS in any way this year, please come to our first planning meeting. Our VBS will run in the evenings from Monday June 26 through Friday June 30, and we need all kinds of helpers.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BBQ & PICNIC. Sunday, June 11, at 11:30 a.m.** We're firing up the grill and bringing in the big tent for a church wide celebration you can bring the whole family to enjoy. Food, games and great time to be together at the start of the summer.

**3FT at the Ballpark. Sunday, July 30.** Save the date and start inviting your friends, we're going to cheer on the Somerset Patriots on Sunday, July 30.

#### **BIBLE STUDY.**

**Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** We gather in the lounge on Wednesdays for fellowship and discussion around God's Word. In the Easter Season we will read and discuss the book of 1 Peter. This book will be read as the second reading in worship each week.

**Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** This study meets on Zoom. See your virtual bulletin for the link to join this study from any place.

**DAILY PRAYER.** Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

**Morning Prayer:** Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

**Night Prayer:** End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.** to share what has been happening in their day, to let go of each day's trouble and to participate in a brief service of night prayer. Zoom log info: Meeting ID = 401 244 599 + Password: 042662

### **BLESSING**

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

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