

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

7 Easter + Saturday, May 11, 2024



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*

## 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.**

The word is near you,

**on your lips and in your heart.**

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved.**

Faith comes from what is heard,

**and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

## SCRIPTURE SONG

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;

just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

For you alone are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and worship before you,

for your just and holy works have been revealed.

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 John 5:9-13**

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

A reading from 1 John.

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: John 17:6-19**

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] <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. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.  
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.  
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness,  
and remission of all our sins.

**Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church,  
the world, and all those in need of good news.

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world  
to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful  
ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Guard and preserve all life  
threatened by melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Inspire and strengthen those who  
work to keep the world from carelessness and destruction and help us all to be good  
and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and  
show them how to best work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe  
first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect  
others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any  
affliction of body, mind and spirit, especially those whose names we speak out loud, in  
our hearts or by listing online ... Support those who grieve and bring solace to those  
near death. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as  
one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and  
gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith, especially we remember Elaine. Inspire us by their witness.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in 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.*

## **OFFERING 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**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**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.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WALKING AT MENLO MALL (OR ROOSEVELT PARK). 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.

#### **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 First John. 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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL.** Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. Our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Executive committee meets Sunday, May 12, after worship to set the agenda. See a council member if you have an item you would like on the agenda.

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION. Pentecost! Sunday, May 19.** When we worship on Pentecost (May 19) we will praise God and hear God's Word in the variety of languages spoken by the people of St. Paul's. Incite your friends to join us in a lively celebration of our life together in the Holy Spirit.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON.** Tuesday, May 21, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a light lunch and come gather and abide with friends. It's a great way to invite your neighbors to come and see what God's doing at St. Paul's and always a way God refreshes our souls. Drinks, sweets and sides provided.

**ST. PAUL'S PICNIC.** Sunday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m. Invite your friends and family to join you for worship and stay for food, fellowship and games at our church picnic. RSVP by using the sign up sheet in the lounge or by calling the church office at (732) 287-0888.

### **Make Plans for VBS**

#### **Mark your Calendars for Camp Firelight**

*"When I am Afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3*

- Friday evening, June 28, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday evening, June 29, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 30, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Camp Firelight St. Paul's Takeover! VBS for All of Us!

You'll want your neighbors to come and be part of this amazing adventure in learning and discipleship at the beginning of our summer!

**REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.** Children Age 3 through 6th grade can sign up for Vacation Bible school using the form link in the Virtual Bulletin or at the Camp Firelight Tree in the lounge.

**VOLUNTEER TO SPARK THE EXCITEMENT!** If you would like to use your unique abilities (and you have lots) to help make VBS a memorable experience for our children ... see Erin or Pastor Jim or use the sign up form in the Virtual Bulletin.

**DONATE S'MORE STUFF AND ENJOY THE FUN!** Between now and the end of June you can purchase and donate all the stuff that goes into making great S'MORES ... Graham Crackers, Chocolate (of all kinds), Marshmallows (of all kinds), sticks, and more! Leave your donations at the Camp Firelight Tree in the lounge.

**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**

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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