

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day + Sunday, April 5, 2026

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.*



## PRELUDE AND WELCOME

### GATHERING SONG *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (ELW 365)



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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



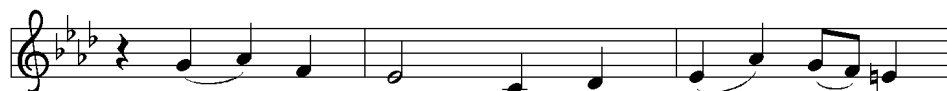
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,**  
**"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**  
**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

- <sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- <sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."
- <sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. R**
- <sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Awake My Heart With Gladness* (ELW 378)



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;  
2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!  
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;  
5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.  
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.  
where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,  
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;  
“Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.  
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.  
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**

and became truly human.  
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,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain, especially those we remember now by speaking their names out loud, in our hearts or by listing them online. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

### PEACE

The peace of Christ 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). You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING: 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.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING: 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:

**GREAT THANKSGIVING: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING: THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

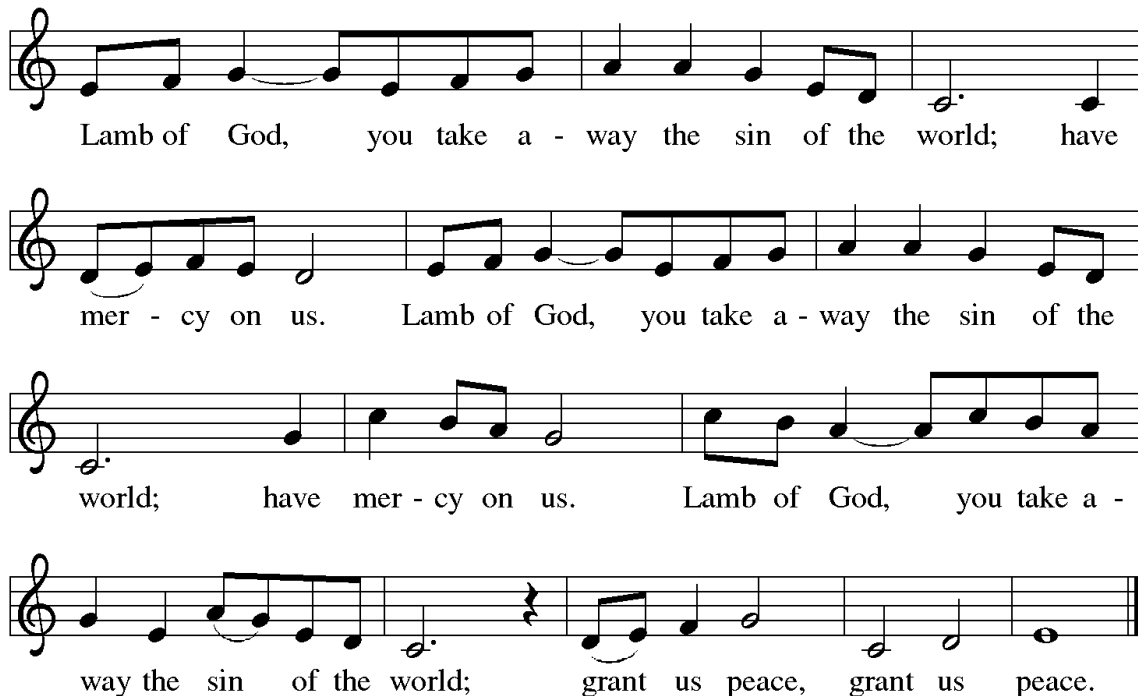
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### COMMUNION SONG



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.

## COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**

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

## COMMUNION HYMN *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.


Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.


**Amen.**


## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

*Easter words by Sue Lincoln*

Refrain   
Go tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

<sup>5</sup>  To Verse  
Go tell it on the moun - tain that Christ is ri - sen there.

VERSE   
1 While mour-ners wept in si - lence, And sealed the guard - ed stone, At  
2 The an - gel spoke in splen - dor, "Why seek the li - ving here? He  
3 So lift your voice with glad - ness, Let ev - 'ry na - tion sing: The

<sup>6</sup>  To Refrain  
dawn the earth stood trem - bling, The grave could not hold on.  
lives, just as He pro - mised, Go tell it far and near!"  
ris'n Christ reigns for - e - ver, Our Sav - ior, Lord, and King.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CATECHISM CLASS THIS WEEK.** Sunday school resumes on April 12 and the confirmation class and parents will hear a presentation about 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering.

**WALKING AT MENLO MALL.** Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at the lower-level Nordstrom entrance to the mall. Enjoy fellowship, prayer and a walk around the mall.

**EASTER SPAM!** Thank you to all who brought a can of Spam for the Food Pantry. For years Spam has been a popular item in the Saving Grace Neighborhood Food Pantry, but rising costs have forced us to stop stocking it. With your help, we gathered enough for a two-weeks supply of Spam this Easter Season.

**WOMEN'S DAY AWAY.** Saturday, April 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CrossRoads Retreat Center. A retreat for all the women of St. Paul's. We will car pool, enjoy a light breakfast and spend the day in a calm atmosphere. Cost is \$10 per person, made payable to St. Paul's. Sign up using the sign up sheet in the lounge.

**GROWING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY.** Participate in the Saving Grace Community Garden this Spring/Summer. The Saving Grace Neighborhood Food Pantry is looking to start a community garden. Here's a chance for you, your family or neighbors to grow some produce for yourself and our food pantry clients by working a 4x8 vegetable garden and share all or some of the produce with the food pantry. If you are interested, talk to Pastor.

**GRIEF GROUPS: NO GRIEF GROUPS MEET THIS WEEK.** In our grief we need a place where we can go to talk, cry and even laugh as we remember the loved ones we have lost and consider what it means for us to continue to live. Come and share your grief in fellowship with others on the journey.

**GRIEF SHARE.** Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Community Presbyterian Church. This grief support meets every Tuesday evening and offers an excellent 13-week curriculum designed to guide and support you. Large group, small group and video presentations give a mix of teaching, listening and compassion.

**GRIEF ... WHAT NOW?** Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. This small group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and seeks to hold space for open discussion and group discovery on ways to rediscover who we are after loss.

## **START AND END YOUR DAY IN PRAYER**

**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.

**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. In April, we will pray through the book of Psalms.

**Night Prayer.** End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Thine Is the Glory* (ELW 376)**



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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