

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter + Sunday, May 3, 2026



## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

## PRELUDE & WELCOME



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: CATECHISM REVIEW

*As some of us prepare to affirm our baptism on Pentecost, it is good for us all to review and remember how we practice our faith in worship. Today, we will look at what the Small Catechism says about Confession and Forgiveness, and then together we will confess our sins and receive God's word of forgiveness.*

### How people are to be taught to confess

#### What is confession?

*Confession consists of two parts. One is that we confess our sins. The other is that we receive the absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God himself and by no means doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.*

#### Which sins is a person to confess?

*Before God one is to acknowledge the guilt for all sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. However, before the pastor (in private confession) we are to confess only those sins of which we are aware and which trouble us.*

#### Which sins are these?

*Here reflect on your walk of life in light of the Ten Commandments: whether you are father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy, whether you have harmed anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted, or injured anything.*

*All kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Lord God, We Praise You* (ELW 558)



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and  
2 Mon-arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch-ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer  
weak-ness, health and whole-ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.  
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with-out end - ing.  
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.


## 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

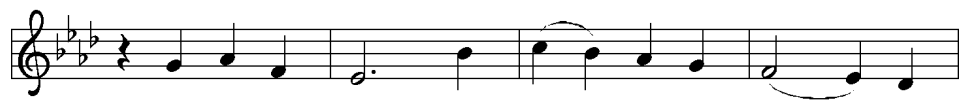
*Refrain*




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:

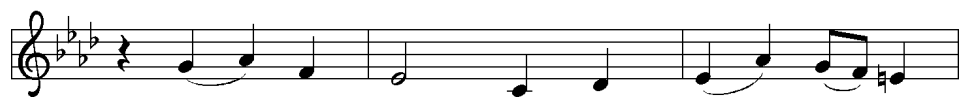


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to




*Refrain*

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 -



*Refrain*

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 READING: Acts 7:55-60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

A reading from Acts.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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, 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>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."

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

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

A reading from 1 Peter.

<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.

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: John 14:1-14

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *You Are the Way* (ELW 758)



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

## 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.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially those we remember now by speaking their names out loud, in our hearts or by listing them online. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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

*Thank you for joining us in worship today. We worship God when we give our offering. In this act of worship we put our faith in God's promises into practice, trusting that in God's mercy, grace and love we find have more than enough to meet the needs of our life. We have enough to give thanks and to share with those in need. You can give your offering placing your gift in the offering plate or electronically. To make an electronic gift follow the links at [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving). Pray that the gifts we gather today God will put to work so that together we can live out the mission God has entrusted to us: to share the good news of Christ in word and deed.*

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

Refrain

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

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

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

6 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. To Refrain

## 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 al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

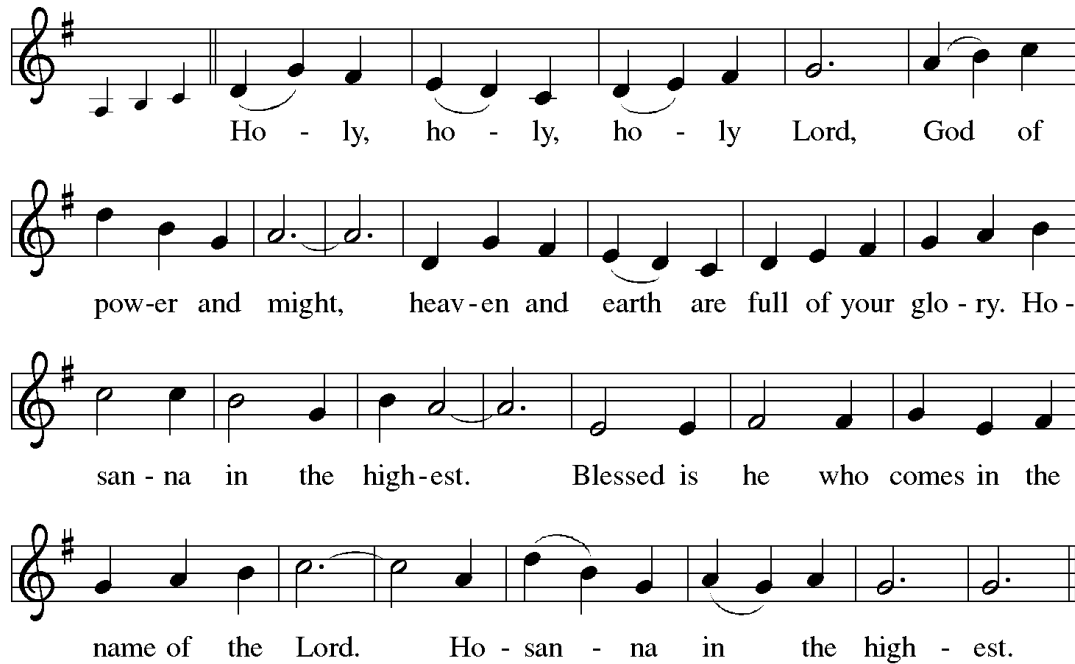
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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:

## 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.**

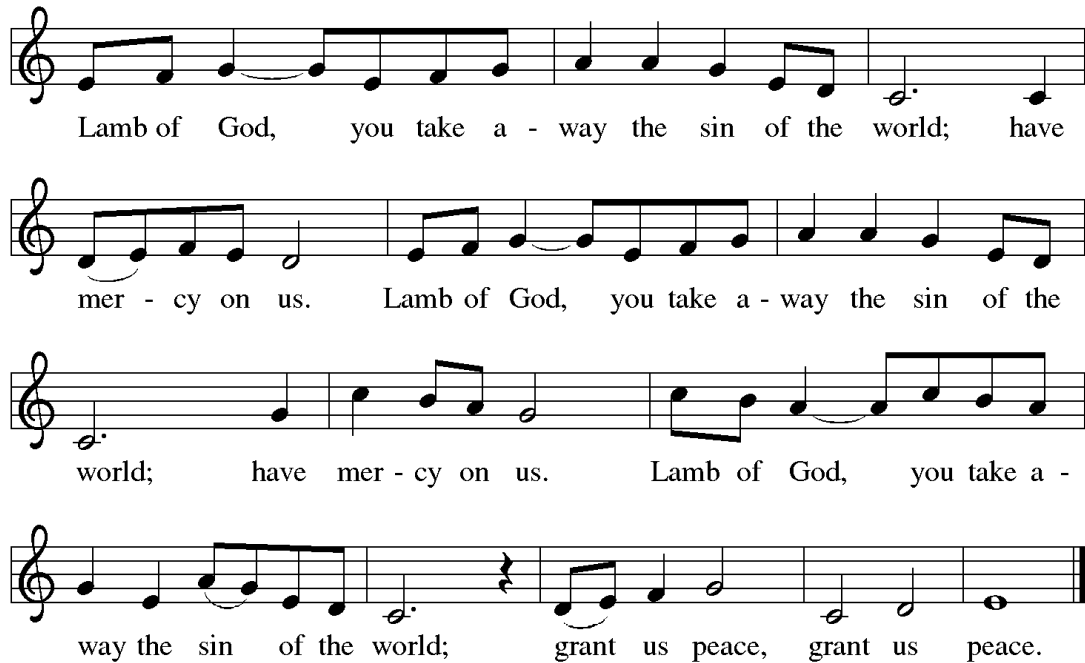
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**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.**

### **Prayer before holy communion**

*Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.*



COMMUNION HYMN *Bring Many Names* (ACS 1094)



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,  
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,  
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,  
 4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,  
 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,  
 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in  
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -  
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -  
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -  
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for  
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -  
 qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -  
 giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -  
 pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -  
 jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -  
 breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



san - na! Bring man - y names!  
 san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 san - na, old, ach - ing God!  
 san - na, young, grow - ing God!  
 san - na, 6 great, liv - ing God!

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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK. Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** The Movin' Lutherans are movin' outdoors for the summer. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet a near the skating rink at Roosevelt Park. Enjoy fellowship, prayer and a walk around the lake. Please note, in the event of rain, the walk will move to Menlo Mall.

**BIBLE STUDY. Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** We meet in the lounge to read and discuss the Bible passages assigned for worship the coming Sunday. Invite your friends.

**GROWING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY. Reserve your spot today!** Participate in the Saving Grace Community Garden this Spring/Summer. 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.

**CELEBRATE PENTECOST! Sunday, May 24.** Pentecost gives the church a chance to remember and celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit for all people, from all over the earth. In our Pentecost worship this year, five young people will affirm their baptism (confirmation), and we will celebrate and give thanks with them with an international tasting menu potluck! Sign up in the lounge to bring small portions of a food that comes from the home of your ancestors.

**GRIEF GROUPS:** 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, May 7, 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 *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to  
me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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