

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



April 28, 2024

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# W elcome to **ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:10am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave  
9:00am | Choir Practice  
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School,  
Confirmation and Adult Forum  
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave  
and Online  
11:30am | Coffee Hour

## **LIVESTREAMING**

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

## **WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER**

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at [www.stpaularlington.org](http://www.stpaularlington.org) and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

## **SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:**

Marie Breitenbach and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*  
Mikayla and Adelaide Norman, *Acolytes*  
Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*  
John Turner, *Lector*  
Sandy Walker, *Deacon*  
Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*  
Peter and Hollie Schmidt, *Coffee Guild*

*When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.*

*At the ☒, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.*

*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

English Suite No. 2 in A minor, BWV 807: Sarabande

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

**\*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.**

\*KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

HYMN OF PRAISE



**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**1** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

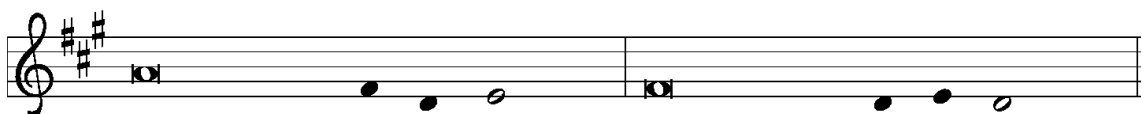
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He

commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:25-31



From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the Lord.  
**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever!**  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the Lord;  
all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.  
**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the Lord,**  
**who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations.**  
Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup> down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup> fore the Lord.  
**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup> serve the Lord,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup> tions to come.**  
**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup> yet unborn,**  
**saying to them, "The <sup>1</sup> Lord has acted!"**

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

**B**eloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.



By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

\* GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my

words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

CHILDREN’S TIME

Vicar Katie Linthicum

SERMON

Vicar Katie Linthicum

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

ELW 403



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove’s song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ’s bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind’s rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow’r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame’s ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

\* APOSTLES’ CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign especially in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and Haiti. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially Dan, Jeffrey, Lynn, Meredith, Owen, and Susan. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors, especially Catherine of Siena; Philip and James, the Apostles; Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria; and Monica, mother of Augustine. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# MEAL

## ANTHEM

“Christ Is the Vine”

Marilyn Biery (b. 1959)  
James Biery (b. 1956)

Christ is the vine, we are the branches.  
Growing in unity with each new strand.  
Christ is the vine, we are the branches.  
Nurtured and pruned by the vine grower's hand.

1. The vine which God is tending is bursting with new life,  
It's reach is never ending, while pruned with sharpest knife.  
It stretches to the sunshine with yearning born of need,  
And bears good fruit for new wine, love born from tiny seed.

*Refrain*

Christ is the vine,...

2. The vine was born in darkness and from the earth it grew.  
A rose pure in its darkness, caressed by spirit dew.  
As Moses one saw branches with holy brightness glow,  
We see our spreading branches through all creation grow.

*Refrain*

Christ is the vine,....

3. And we could twine together are rooted in the vine.  
With love in Christ, we gather, to share the bread and wine.  
In Christ, we are abiding, we grow within God's care  
And care and spread this joyful tidying to people everywhere.

*Refrain*

Christ is the vine,...

## OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:



\* OFFERTORY (10:30 only)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

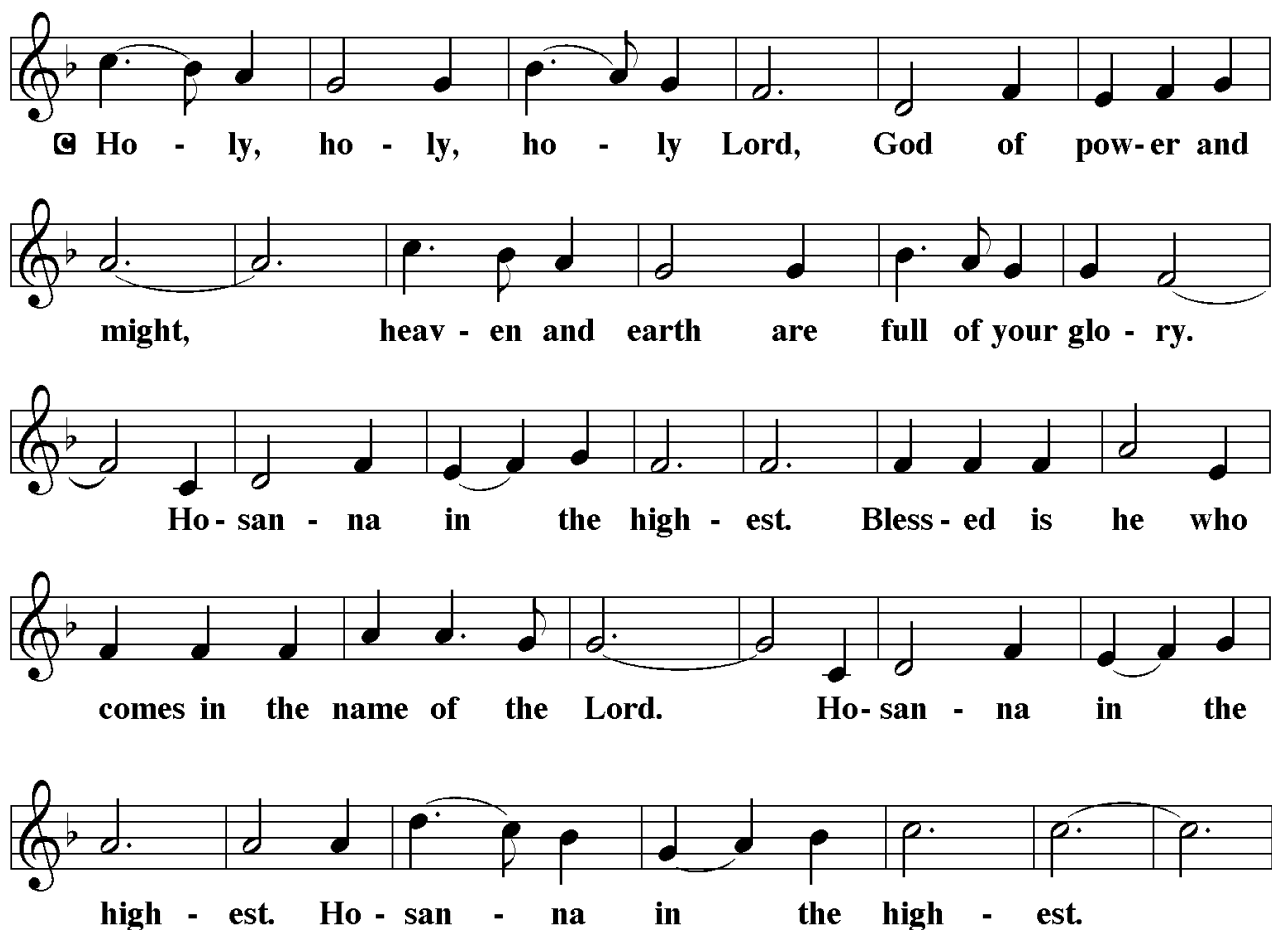
\* OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

\* GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

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:



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. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

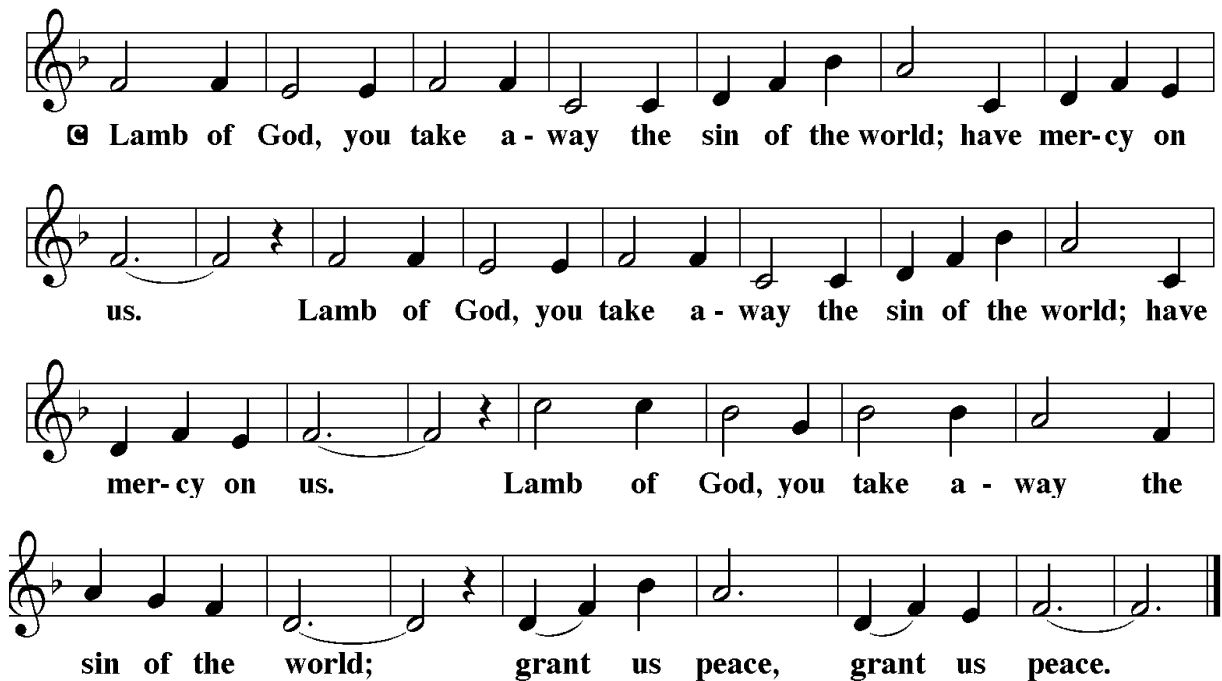
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

\* LORD'S PRAYER

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

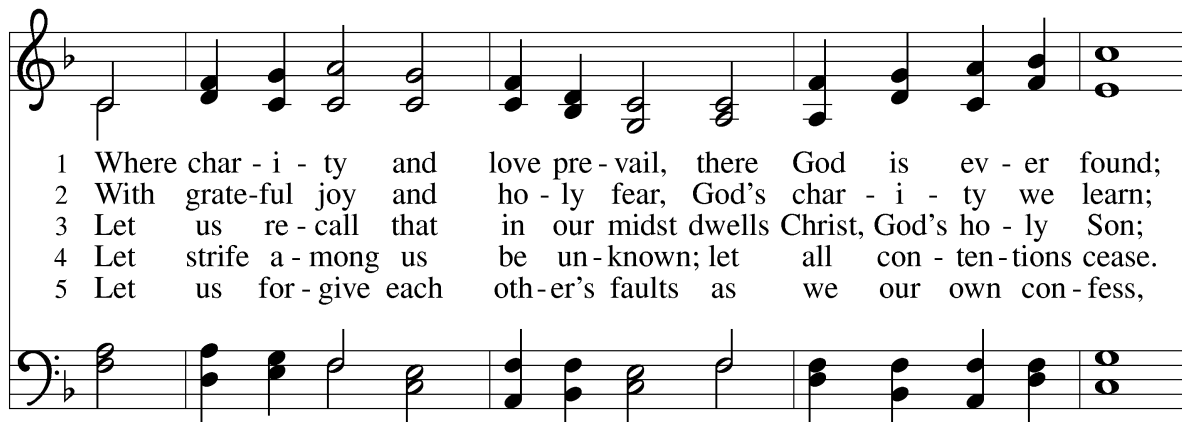


☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

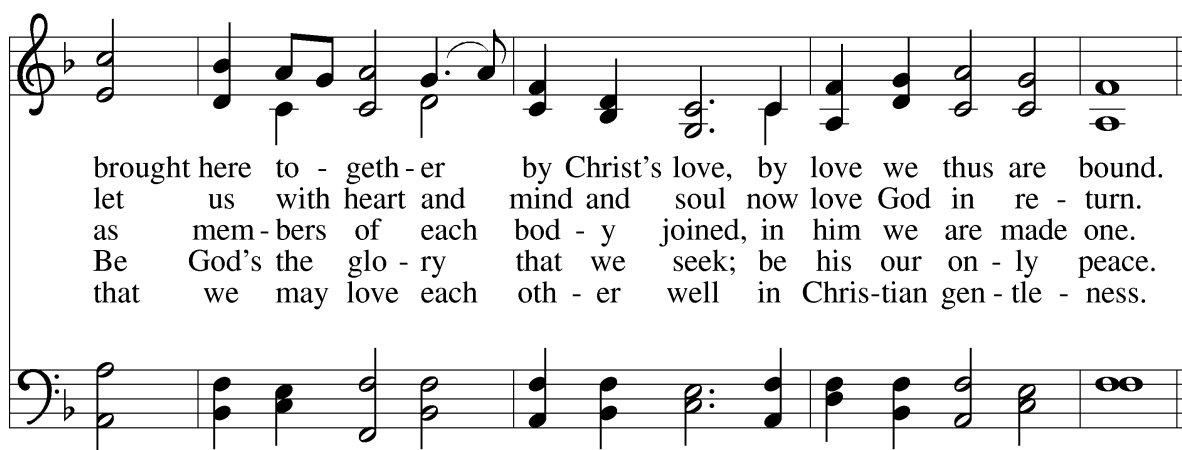
COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW 359



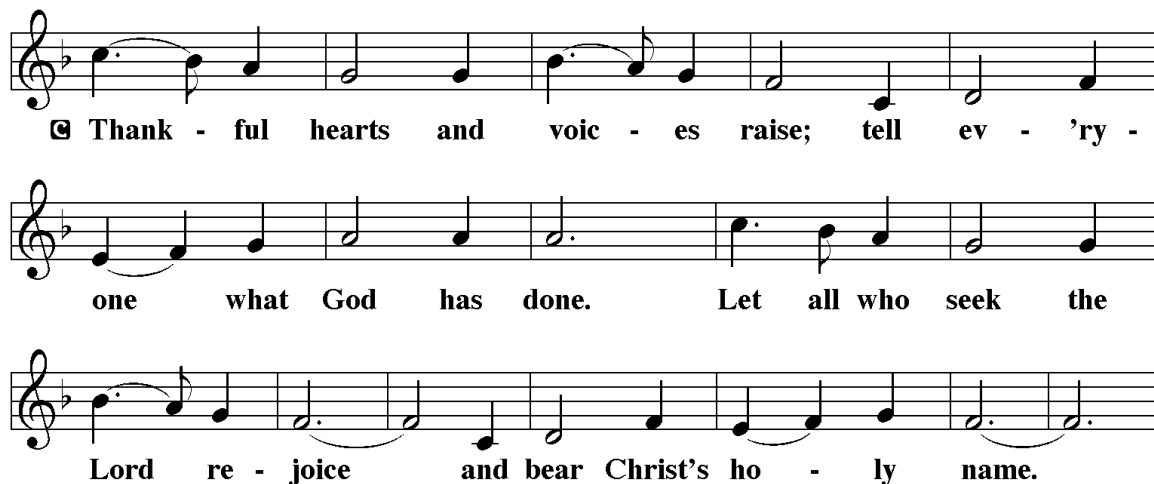
1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

\* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (10:30 only)



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God,  
 you have prepared a table before us  
 and nourished us with your love.  
 Send us forth from this banquet  
 to proclaim your goodness  
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
 our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

\* BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
 The God of resurrection power,  
 the Christ of unending joy,  
 and the Spirit of Easter hope  
 † bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

\* SENDING HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

\* DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

PRELUDE

“English Suite No. 2 in A minor, BWV 807: Bourree II”

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS  
*at* **SAINT PAUL**



**CYF (CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES) UPDATE**

St. Paul Annual Weekend Retreat will be the weekend of August 23-25. This is an annual tradition to relax, reflect, and reconnect with each other in the beautiful environment of Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee in New Hampshire. All are welcome to join us for this weekend! Camp Calumet Summer Camp now enrolling for their summer camp. Many of the youth in our congregation attend and work there. It is a great community that offers a fun, accepting environment for youth of all ages. Visit their website at [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org).

**UPCOMING ADULT FORUM TOPICS | Sundays in Easter**

April 28 - Bible study with Pastor Ross Goodman

May 5 - Bible study with Pastor Liz Senft

May 12 - Art and Easter with Pastor Liz Senft

**ARLINGTON EATS APRIL FOOD NEEDS**

The number one need this month is **cooking oil**. As you shop for your own needs this month, please pick up an extra bottle of cooking oil. Other items needed this month are **condensed milk, baked beans and maxi pads**.



**SAINT PAUL**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

929 Concord Turnpike  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476  
www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

**Staff**

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*  
The Reverend Liz Senft, *Pastoral Associate*  
Katie Linthicum, *Vicar*  
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*  
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*  
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and  
Families Director*  
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*  
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

**Church Council and Officers**

Elizabeth Heichler, *President*  
Monique Airasian, *Vice-President*  
Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*  
Kerri Frick, *Secretary*  
Norma Ofsthun, *Financial Secretary*  
Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*  
Kristen Anderson  
Eric Carlson  
Peter Hedlund  
Kevin Kreutter  
Bob Sniffen  
Sandy Walker  
Taryn Walsh



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

