

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 14, 2023**

**A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests.** The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are happy that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservation to the entire truth of God's Word in the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Holy Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again!

Pre-Service Meditation and Prayer  
Psalm 138 (pew bible, page 554)

*To Your temple I draw near; Lord, I love to worship here.  
Here are Sacrament and Word; here believers meet their Lord.  
While I listen to Your Law, fill my soul with holy awe  
Till Your Gospel brings to me life and immortality.*

*While Your ministers proclaim peace and pardon in Your name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I hear You speaking from the sky.  
From Your house, when I return, may my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say, "I have walked with God today."*

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Suzannah Miller

Ushers: Wayne Ruegge, Ed Chiappetti



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

+++ **We Prepare to Meet Our Lord** +++

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn

809 – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.




## Our Confession of Sins

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C  Who made heav'n and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C  And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C  A - men.

+++ We Praise Our Lord +++

## Easter Acclamation

P The Lord is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P God's love was revealed among us in this way:

C **God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.

C **Christ suffered for our sins once for all the Righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us to God.**

P In Him we live and move and have our being.

C **“Because I live, you will live also.”**

P “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

C **Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.**

P In Him we live and move and have our being.

C **Come and see what God has done, God’s wonderful acts toward all people.**

P “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.”

C **“Because I live, you will live also.”**

P Glory be to God!

C



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for - ev - er-more. A-men.

### Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### Congregation sings:

**He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;**

**The gates of heav'n are open.**

**My Jesus did triumphant die, And Satan's arrows broken lie,**

**Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer!**

**Christ victorious Rising glorious, Life is giving.**

**He was dead but now is living!**

[LSB #488]

P Let us pray:

C



A - men.

## +++ Our Lord Speaks to Us in His Word +++

### First Lesson – Acts 17:22 -31

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. 24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ 29 “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man’s design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and treasure it. Alleluia!



### Second Lesson – 1 Peter 3:15-21



15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 It is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison 20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It

saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.



## Our Confession of Faith

*The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn

915 – *Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

## Sermon

Text – John 21:15-19

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” 16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” 17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

### *The Risen Savior Calls Sinners to Work for Him*

1. He restores us fallen ones.
2. He shifts our focus.
3. He leads us to rely on His strength.

**+++ We Offer Ourselves to Our Lord +++**

## Offertory



new a right spi - rit with-in me.  
 Cast me not a-way from Your pres - ence, and  
 take not Your Ho-ly Spir - it from me.  
 Re-store un-to me the joy of Your sal-va-tion and up  
 hold me with Your free spir -  
 it. A - men.

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Altar Prayer / Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn** 700 (1-3) – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**+++ Our Lord Blesses Us +++**

**Benediction**

P The LORD bless you and keep you . . .

C A - men, a - men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn**

700 (4)

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### **This Week at St. Paul**

Today (5/14)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Sun (5/21)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Bible Class & Sunday School

### **Upcoming Synod Events**

West-Central Delegate Conference, Watertown SD: Tue-Thu, May 23-25  
CLC General Pastoral Conference, Eau Claire WI: Tue-Thu, June 20-22

**In Our Prayers:** Doug Tiefel, who underwent angioplasty surgery last Tuesday for a heart ailment. He is recovering at home. We pray the Lord to bless his recuperation from the surgery according to His gracious will.

**Bible Class Topic:** Our current study topic is "Evangelism" (the privilege the Lord has given us of telling others the Gospel Good News). There will also be a round table discussion of the handout shared at the recent Front Range Mission Festival titled "A Simple Law and Gospel Presentation."

**Travel Alert:** Next Sunday, May 21, is the date for the Annual Colfax Marathon. Please take note, as you may need to leave for church earlier than usual due to road closures. Directions for avoiding the road closures will be shared via email to our membership later this week.

**"The Branches"** is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. Subscriptions are available for the 2023-2024 subscription year (July through June). The Branches staff prays that, through this publication, we serve:

- to encourage you in your personal and family Bible study
- to edify you in your daily walk with Christ
- to provide a means to use and share your God-given gifts
- to celebrate and reflect upon God's gift of Christian sisters, near and far

Consider a subscription for yourself and/or gift subscriptions for women in your life! The cost is \$15.00/year for 4 issues. Checks are payable to, "The Branches," and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal – you may contact Sandy Hulke at [thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com).



## **A Mother's Day Devotion**

*Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother ... When Jesus therefore saw His mother; and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. John 19:25-27*

### **The Brokenhearted Mother**

Simeon had foretold that Mary's heart would be broken. It happened there at Calvary where Jesus laid down His life for a sinful mankind. Surely that truth that had been locked away and treasured in Mary's heart was important to her as she watched her Son suffer and die on the cross. At the same time there can be little question as to the truth of Simeon's words, "Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also" for Mary also in those hours.

Grief and sadness is part of this life. Many Christian mothers have thoughts these days of children the Lord has received into heaven. Others feel the sharp disappointment of not ever having children of their own to hold and cherish. On Mother's Day these very real feelings may come into sharper focus. Jesus' loving concern was not limited to His mother, even though it was specifically directed toward her on the day of His death. Even as Jesus directed John to care for the Savior's mother, so we also will hear these words of our Lord and extend the comfort of Christian love to those who feel a hole in their hearts while others rejoice in the blessings they have received. May we hear the Savior's words to Mary and also to John, and look for the opportunity to bring a child's love, care and concern to someone in need.

Dearest Jesus, open our eyes to see the opportunity to show love and appreciation to one whose heart craves a child's love. Amen.

*- Daily Rest, Volume 5, No. 3, May 7, 2021*

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### **Mother's Day Prayer**

Dear Lord, we give You our thanks that You sent Your Son to be born of a woman, the virgin Mary. By His holy birth You gave Mary the privilege of becoming the mother of the Son of God and in that way You crowned and honored all motherhood. We ask You to shower Your blessings on all of our Christian mothers so that they may, in turn, be a blessing to their children. We thank You also for the memory of our mothers who have passed on from this vale of tears and are even now praising You in heaven. Lord, give each of the mothers among us a worshipful reverence of You, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that she is but a steward of Your children and that only Your Holy Spirit, through the power of Your Word, can make these children Your own. May each mother find rest in you. On this day in which we honor our mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have raised us the way we should go, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to You, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. Amen.

## **Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions**

### **May 15-20**

**Mon Luke 11:5-13** Jesus encourages us to pray by reminding us that even a friend who doesn't want to be bothered will respond to requests when His heart is not in it. But God wants us to ask, seek, and knock. And while sinful human fathers give good gifts, our heavenly Father will give the greatest gifts.

**Tues 1 Timothy 2:1-6** The apostle urges prayers for ALL people, even for those in high positions whom we may never meet. The goal of our prayers will be the same as God's own goal: conditions favorable to the salvation of ALL people, as they come to know the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ.

**Wed Isaiah 55:6-11** The Lord wants His people to approach Him, seeking His compassion and forgiveness. The thoughts and ways of sinful man lead to destruction, but the thoughts and ways of the Lord lead to salvation. This gift of life is brought to us by His word, like water bringing life to the earth.

**Thur Luke 24:50-53** Luke closes His Gospel with Jesus' ascension. The last time the disciples see Him, His hands are uplifted in blessing, which brings their response of joyous worship as they return to Jerusalem in accord with their Lord's instructions.

**Fri Colossians 3:1-4** The ascended Lord directs our attention heavenward as we await His glorious return. Although our life is still hidden with Christ in God (v3), it is nonetheless glorious, far more glorious than things that are on earth (v2).

**Sat John 17:11-26** Jesus is on a path to the Father that will pass through suffering and death on the cross. He prays for His disciples and for all who will believe through their testimony (v20). His prayer is for unity and love among those who follow Him to the Father, whom they have learned to know through Him.