

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 WEST LOUTHER ST.
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013
Church Office: 717-243-2319

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 2, 2021
9:30 a.m. Worship

+ Boldly Sharing God's Word and Unconditional Love with All +

THE GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER PROCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you. All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God. Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation. Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

L: A reading from Acts.

²⁶Then 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

Read Responsively

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

L: A reading from First John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(ELW Setting One)*

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

TRANSITION HYMN

That We May Be Filled

Not as we ought but as we are a - ble, we
of - fer our thanks as we come to your ta - ble. Through
Word and Spir - it bless us; through bread and wine re - fresh us that
we may be filled, that we may be filled with love.

Text: Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Music: THAT WE MAY BE FILLED, Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, Like the
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, To the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, With the



chal - lenge of her flight, Like the vig - or of the
 branch-es of the Vine, To the church in faith as -
 cease - less voice of prayer, With the pow'r to love and



wind's rush, Like the new flame's ea - ger might: Come,
 sem - bled, To her midst as gift and sign: Come,
 wit - ness, With the peace be - yond com - pare: Come,



Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b.1944, © 1982, Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: BRIDEGROOM, 8 7 8 7 6; Peter Cutts, b.1937, © 1969, Hope Publishing Company

THE NICENE CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. We pray especially for those who serve in the military and their families, for those listed in our St. Paul prayer books, and for those whom we now name aloud or in

our hearts (*pause...*) Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: *Here other intercessions may be made.....*Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift is an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears.

C: Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen

Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



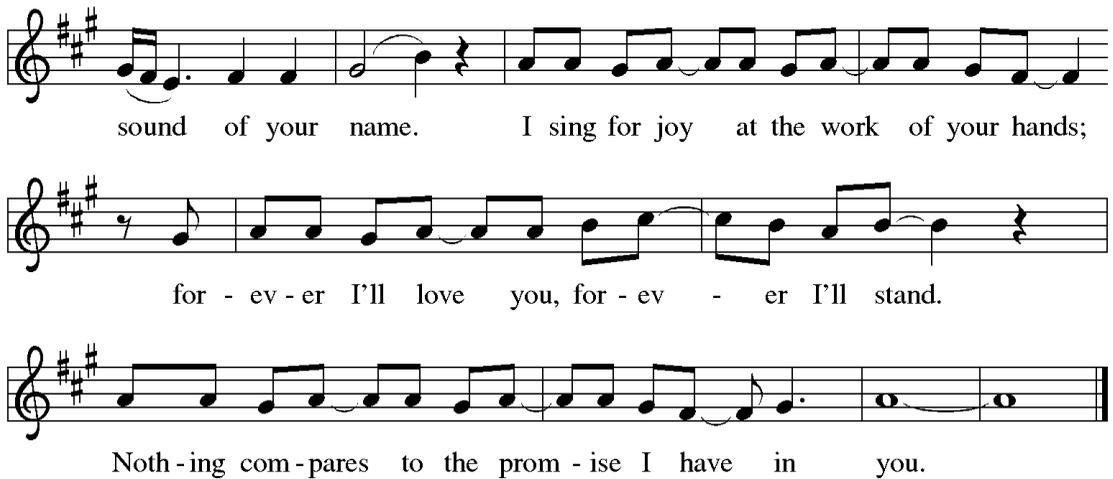
let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
 for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.
 Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
 Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
 Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP),
 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

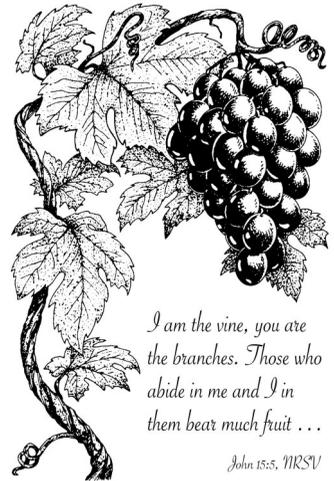
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: At St. Paul we gather to be fed, offer our praise and depart:

C: **To Boldly Share God's Word and Unconditional Love with All.**

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**



Texts Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian