



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship  
Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

**Fourth Sunday of Easter | April 21, 2024**

Welcome!  
May God's grace continue to  
overflow to and through you.



## Assisting In Worship

### **Assisting Minister**

Amy Hildreth

### **Reader**

Frank Scianni

### **Acolyte**

Mason Beetle

### **Sound**

John Beyer  
Mike Scherr

### **Camera Operator**

Sue Scherr

### **Screen Operator**

Mike Scherr

### **Ushers**

Judy Roberts &  
Kathie Snyder

### **Greeter**

Hank Roberts

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

We hope you will use this bulletin during the week to have a song to sing, prayers to pray and give comfort, whether you are worshipping in person or from home on your electronic devices.

Although not all of us are physically together to worship, our Lord is still with us. We give thanks for those who attend in-person and the technology that allows us to share the bulletin and the worship service on the website.

St. Paul has a Community Prayer Cross located outside near the road. You are welcome to leave a prayer request there or in the box when you enter, and it will be placed on the cross.

Important community ministries of St. Paul include the Tuesday Community Meal, Saturday Food Pantry, and the Early Childhood Learning Center. Your financial gift makes a difference for Christ and His kingdom and enables St. Paul to be *the community church that cares*. It can be made by online giving, on Sunday morning, mailed to the church, or dropped off during normal office hours - Monday-Friday • 9a-12noon.

*May God bless you and give you peace!*

# Welcome and Announcements

Prelude — “He Leadeth Me” — William B. Brandbury — John Ferreira

## Greeting

Pastor: The beauty of the Creator inspires us, the grace of the Good Shepherd be with us, and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

**Response: May it be so!**

## Gathering Hymn — Above All

1. A - bove all pow - ers, a - bove all kings, a - bove all  
na - ture and all cre - a - ted things; A - bove all wis - dom and all the ways of man,  
You were here be - fore the world be - gan. 2. A - bove all  
king - doms, a - bove all thrones, a - bove all won - ders the world has ev - er known;  
A - bove all wealth and treas - ures of the earth,  
there's no way to meas - ure what You're worth. Cru - ci - fied,

laid be - hind the stone; You lived to die, re -  
 -ject-ed and a - lone; Like a rose, tram-pled on the ground,  
 You took the fall, and thought of me, a - bove  
 all.

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## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Look, here is water!

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

Pastor: Look! Here is water!

**Response: What is to prevent us from giving thanks for baptism?**

Pastor: Here is water. Rushing water. Surging water. Pounding, crashing surf of water. Foaming waters to wash us clean, to scrub away the guilt, the burden that clings, to wipe away the grime of archived fear. Blessed be water.

**Response: We give you thanks, Creator God, for sea and ocean, tides and waves.**

Pastor: Here is water. Tumbling water. Streaming water. Free-flowing-shower-of-grace water. Bubbling fount to soothe our hearts, balm for the scars of angry division, salve for the wounds of ignorant pride. Blessed be water.

**Response: We give you thanks, creative Word, for rain and snow, storm and mist.**

Pastor: Here is water. Clear water. Cool water. Quench-the-thirst-of-our-soul water. Still waters to restore our spirits, source of hope, refreshment for the journey toward the fold, sparkling with the promise of new life. Blessed be water.

**Response: We give you thanks, creating Spirit, for stream and pool, spring and lake.**

Pastor: Here is water, through which God created and continues to create. In the beginning, weaving with the Breath of life every living being; throughout history, a gateway for divine deliverance; in every moment, re-membering the mystery of life, bonding all of creation as one.

**Response: We give you thanks, blessed Creator, for the gift of life, for this water without which life would cease, for the gift of baptism, through which these waters birth us again into your promise of newness, wholeness, and oneness.**

Pastor: Blessed be Creator God, creative  $\mp$  Word, creating Spirit. Blessed be each soul here and not here, one people, one with all that is. Blessed be this water that births us, renews us, and welcomes us home.

**Response: Amen.**

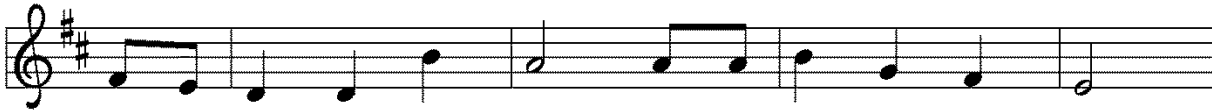
### Hymn during Sprinkling ~ Baptized and Set Free



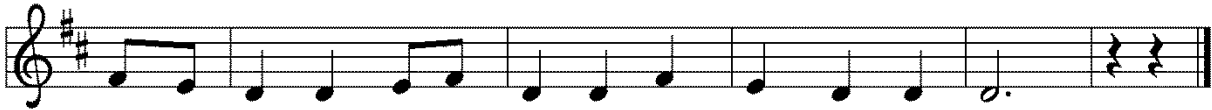
1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
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## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

**Response:** O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Special Music** – “Psalm 23”(Crimond) – Jesse Seymour Irvine - St. Paul Singers

## Children's Message

### Scripture ~ Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

### Scripture ~ Psalm 23

**<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

**<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

**<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.**

**<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### Scripture ~ 1 John 3:16-24

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let

us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel ~ John 10:11-18

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **Response: Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon ~ Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Hymn of the Day - *In Christ Alone*



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, he is my  
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of  
3. There in the ground his bod - y lay, Light of the  
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song. This Cor - ner-stone, this sol - id  
God in help - less babe. This gift of love and righ-teous-  
world by dark - ness slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious  
power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and  
ness scorned by the ones he came to  
day, up from the grave he rose a -  
breath, Je - sus com-mands my des - ti -



storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are  
save. 'Til on that cross as Je - sus died the wrath of  
gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has  
ny. No power of hell, no scheme or plan can ev - er





stilled, when striv-ings cease! My Com-fort-er, my all in  
God was sat-is-fied; for ev-ery sin on him was  
lost its grip on me. For I am his and he is  
pluck me from his hand. 'Til he re-turms or calls me



all, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.  
mine, bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.  
home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

WORDS: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

MUSIC: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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IN CHRIST ALONE  
LMD

## Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: 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. (*pause for silence*)

Assisting Minister: Shepherd God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another.

**Response:** Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems.

**Response:** Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples.

**Response:** **Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good.**

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems.

**Response:** **Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable.**

Assisting Minister: Be especially with those we name now aloud or in our hearts. (pause)

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice.

**Response:** **Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins.**

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith.

**Response:** **Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day.**

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** **hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: 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.

**Response:** **Amen.**

## The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **Response:** **And also with you.**

## Offering

*(The collection plates will be brought forward at this time. Offering plates can still be found at the back of the sanctuary if you did not place your offering in the plates when you entered. Online giving at [www.stpaulsarasota.org](http://www.stpaulsarasota.org) is also available.)*

## Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will, we receive and our cup overflows. Confident in divine abundance and humbly eager to turn from covetous greed, we return what we have received for the Shepherd's work, that green pastures and safe folds will welcome any who live in fear; that peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts; that a voice of welcome will be heard at each gate; that a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst; and all may safely graze. In the name of the One who is our comfort.

**Response: Amen.**

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

Pastor: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Holy Communion

*(Those who want to partake of Christ's body and blood in their seats may lift up their elements at this time).*

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: **Response: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

**Response: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our**

**sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at Jesus' feet.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Those who wish to remain at their seats to partake of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine/grape juice may do so now. The body and blood of Christ is given and shed for you. Take and eat. Take and drink. If you wish to come to the font, you may do so at the ushers' direction.

## Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever.

**Response: Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Assisting Minister: 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.

**Response: Amen.**

## Blessing

Pastor: Little children, sheep of the Good Shepherd: As we journey toward the fold, we travel through the valley of shadow, growing in grace, becoming a blessing. Baptismal wells restore our souls, a rich feast is spread by divine abundance, and divisions end as our cup overflows.

**Response: Amen.**

# Sending Hymn - God Be With You Until We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*  
Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 meet a - gain,

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904  
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## Dismissal

Pastor: Go in Peace. Journey gently on this planet's green pasture.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

Children: And all God's children say,

**Response: Amen.**

**Postlude** "Royal March" (Coronation of King Charles III May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

Paul Fey – John Ferreira

Coffee & Social Hour is held in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

**Attendance** for last Sunday morning: 55 in-person; 95 views; (4/16/24)

## St. Paul Mission Statement

As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.

*Please remember in your prayers...*

All those serving in the U.S. Military. The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. The Florida Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assisting Ministers to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob, and Nicole, Specialists Kim & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana.

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, Community Meal and Food Pantry guests.

Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross and the Arlington Park Neighborhood.

St. Paul members, especially, Lori Fountain, Gage Fournier, Susan Goddard-Barry, Brian, Harper, and Suzanne Gregalot.

ECLC teachers and students especially, Reid, London, Mackson, Aria, Aalivia, Miss Jamie and Miss Wilmanie..

<p><b>Members</b>  Beetle Family  John Beyer  Henry Blosser  Susan Burmaster  Missy Craig  Sue Fisher  Bob Fong  Marty Hillerich  JoAnn Jordan  Bob Lariviere  Lindy Lindemann  John Miller  Cecilia Morvick  James Paulsson  John &amp; Hannah Puckhaber  John Ryan  Sue Scherr  Betty Smowton  Karin Zukowski</p> <p><b>Homebound Members</b>  Theresa Alger  Sharyn Brodnax  Joan Caddell  Donna Casala  Evelyn Gulliksen  June Manselle  Virginia McQuaig  Michael Reiter  Carole Wilson</p> <p><b>Friends and Family</b>  Brenda – daughter of Ginny McQuaig  David – step-dad of Cody Eddleman  David – neighbor of JoAnn Jordan  Debbie – friend of Scherr  LaShonda – friend of John Beyer  Marilyn – aunt of S. Weckwerth  Tibor – regular attender  Susan &amp; Jim – friends of C. Paxton</p>	<p>Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedos  Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson  Doug Benoit – St. Paul volunteer  Buete and Pearson family– family of Brian McCulley  Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster  Kathleen Cannon – friend of Puckhabers  Alice Chanover – friend of Puckhabers  Jessica Clements – friend of Kathie Snyder  Mike Cunningham- friend of H. Roberts  Cody Eddleman – husband of John Beyer  John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts  Gladys Faraone – friend of Hank Roberts  Colton Fong – grandson of Bob Fong  John Foor – friends of Ryans  Gallagher Family – in-laws of Dorothy Boller  Lois Heisler – family of Irene Felicetti  Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of Irene Felicetti  Katy Hernandev – niece of M. Acevedo  Philip Koepke – friend of Irene Felicetti  Joe Kramer – friend of Puckhabers.  Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy Lindemann  Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich  Kenny Manselle—son of June Manselle  David McCall – brother of Judy Roberts  Fran McCracken – friend of Kathie Snyder  Marsha McKinney- former member  Janie McNeil – friend of regular guest  Pam Mills – sister of Daniel Mills  Becky Nobles – friend of L.Lindemann</p>	<p>Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback  Karen Paulsson – sister of Jim Paulsson  Terry Panthana – niece of Jean Panthana  Patricia Puckhaber Zerega – daughter of John Puckhaber  Manny Rivas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback  Ashley Rivera - daughter of Esther Smith  Clint Shantz – former member  Brian, Kenny, &amp; Tommy Schlotterback— sons of Doris Schlotterback  Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback.  James, Mike, &amp; Rob Scianni – sons of Joan and Frank Scianni  Donna Shepherd - sister of Gail Seyfarth  Joan Simone – friend of the Puckhabers  Bethany Smith – daughter of Brenda and Barry Smith  Dave Spitzer – former member  Muriel Stevenson – sister of JoAnn Jordan  Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&amp;B Smith  Bill Sweeney – grandson of G&amp; M Hutfilz  Jean Taffe and family – cousin of Susan Burmaster  David Van Ness – brother of Missy Craig  Elaine &amp; Mark Vanderweight- friends of Jim Paulsson  David Weinberger – friend of Puckhabers  John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton  Pr. Pete Zieg and wife Judy – friends of JoAnn Jordan  Pr. William Zimmermann – former pastor of John Puckhaber</p>
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# St. Paul Lutheran Church

and Early Childhood Learning Center

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
and the Florida-Bahamas Synod, established 1955  
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Executive Committee

Irene Felicetti, President     JoAnn Jordan, Vice President  
George Hutfilz, Treasurer     Don Hillerich, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti  
Lori Fountain-Guillaume  
Carol Grosch  
Amy Hildreth

Marthe Hildreth  
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