

st. Paul Lutheran Church

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 18, 2025

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



Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister Marthe Hildreth

Reader Helen Miller

Acolyte Jordan Masse

Sound Mike Scherr Rick Barry

Camera Operator Sue Scherr

Screen Operator Mike Scherr

> Ushers Sue Barry & Jan Kruse

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 ~ "God Himself Is with Us" – Arr. by Anna Laura Page – Fonda Davies

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Response: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: In the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

Response: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

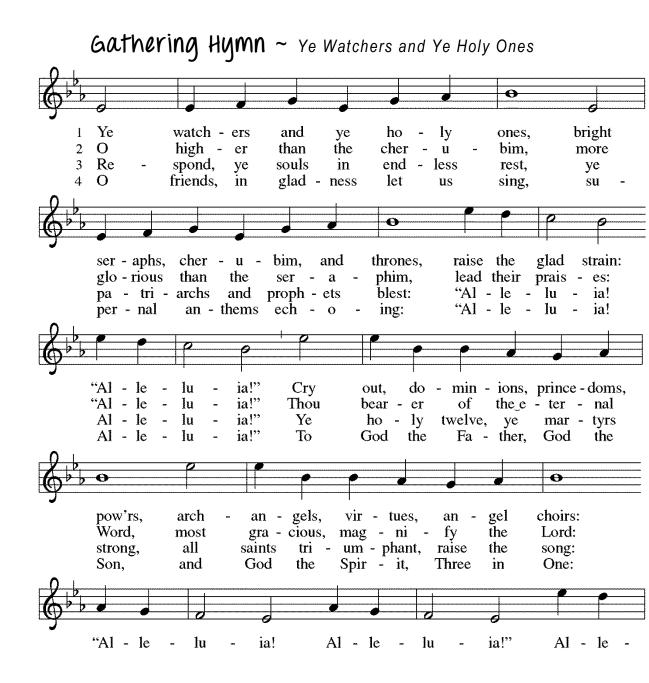
Response: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

Response: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Response: Amen.





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Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God,

Response: you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ministry in Music

"I Come With Joy" - Englert/Wren - The St Paul Singers

Children's Message

Scripture ~ Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the

air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." Word of God. Word of Life. Response: Thanks be to God.

Scripture ~ Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Scripture ~ Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life." Word of God. Word of Life. *Response: Thanks be to God.*



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GOSPEl ~ John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community

.Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 13th chapter.

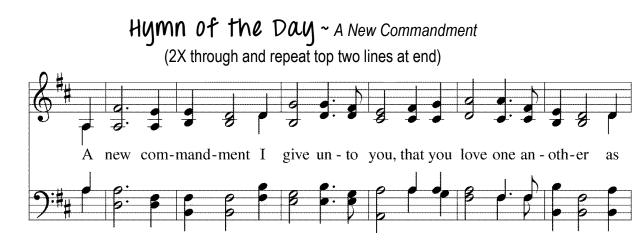
Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



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







Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love.

Response: Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation.

Response: Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Response: Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: Pour out your love on all in need of care:

Response: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness.

Assisting Minister: Be especially with those we name now aloud or in our hearts. (pause) Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: Abide with all who are victims of racism,

Response: especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love.

Response: Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God, *Response:* your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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 <u>www.stpaulsarasota.org</u> is also available.)

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. *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 in their seats may lift up their elements at this time).

Pastor: 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

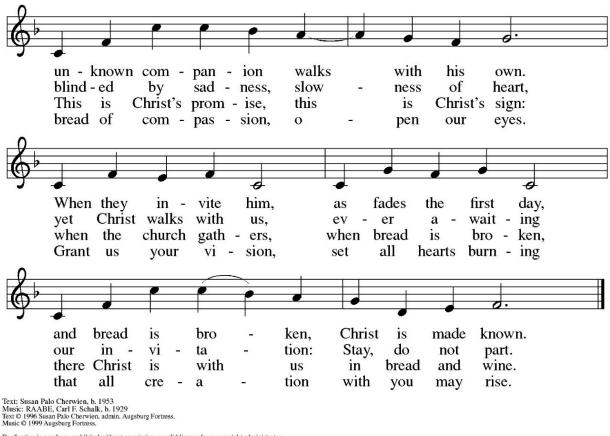
Pastor: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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 altar, you may do so at the ushers' direction.



COMMUNION MUSIC ~ Day of Arising



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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: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. *Response:* Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. *Response:* Amen.



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Dismissal

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen. *Response:* Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Pastor: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! *Response:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Children: And all God's children say, *Response:* Amen.

POSTIUDE ~ "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" – Setting by B. Cull - Fonda Davies

Coffee 4 Social Hour is held in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Flowers are given this week by: Kathie Snyder in honor of all the volunteers that keep our programs running here at St. Paul.

Bulletins are given this month by: Jill Scherer

Attendance for last Sunday morning: 52 in-person; 108 views on line (5/12/25)

Annovncements

Tomorrow is **Hope Seeds**. Come to the Fellowship Hall to put seed packets together from 1-3p. They are sent to different locations so people can grow their own food.

Next Sunday is **Graduate Sunday**. We will celebrate Addison Miller graduating high school. There will be a liturgy during worship and a coffee hour in her honor.

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, especially Gage Fournier. 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 Carlos, Derek, Nicole, and Rob, Specialists Kim, Bill, & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana. The Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. Community Meal and Food Pantry guests. Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. The Arlington Park Neighborhood.

St. Paul members, especially, Sandy Choquette, Missy Craig, Myrna Dority, Kim Farrell, Irene Felicetti, and Sue Fisher St. Paul ECLC teachers & students especially, Hunter, Anna, Navi, Finley, Adaline, Elianah Juliette, Weston, Sophie, & Nika,

St. Paul ECLC teachers & students especially, Hunter, Anna, Navi, Finley, Adaline, Elianah Juliette, Weston, Sophie, & Nika		
Members	Laura Anderson – niece of Roberts	David McCall – brother of J. Roberts
Beetle/O'Hara Family	Sheryl Brandes – sister-in-law of Sue	Addie McLean – daughter of ECLC
Dorothy Boller	Scherr	Director Lisa
Susan Burmaster	John Broad – friend of H. Puckhaber	Marsha McKinney- former member
Judy Carnal	Kim Brown – niece of Hildreths	Becky Nobles – friend of Lindy
Sue Fisher	Buete and Pearson family – family of	Lindemann
Valerie Nicolls	Brian McCulley	Linda and Jim Norris – family of
James Paulsson	Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of	Doris Schlotterback
Colleen Ryan	Susan Burmaster	Karen Paulsson – sister of J. Paulsson
Mike Scherr	Todd Couch – son of Sandy Choquette	Hannah Puckhaber
Frank and Joan Scianni	Mike Cunningham- friend of H. Roberts	Manny Ribas – friend of Cindy
Esther Smith	Rachel Dolgan – friend of H.	Schlotterback
Betty Smowton	Puckhaber	Clint Shantz – former member
Homebound Members	David Eller – friend of Carolyn Mele	Brian & Kenny Schlotterback—sons of
Donna Casala	John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of	Doris Schlotterback
Evelyn Gulliksen	Roberts	Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-
Lindy Lindemann	Gladys Faraone – friend of H. Roberts	in-law of Doris Schlotterback.
Anna Mathisen	John Foor – friends of Ryans	Bethany Smith – daughter of B&B
Virginia McQuaig	Glenn Greenwood – friend of Hildreths	Smith
Michael Reiter	Vickie Hall – sister of Fonda Davies	Natalie Smowton Boxx – great-
Carole Wilson	Lois Heisler – family of Irene Felicetti	granddaughter of Betty Smowton
Friends and Family	Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of	Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of
Alice – friend of JoAnn Jordan	Irene Felicetti	B&B Smith
Bill – friend of Jan Kruse	Katy Hernandev – niece of M. Acevedo	Bill Sweeney – grandson of Marilyn
Brad – brother of Cindy Paxton	Kara Johnson – friend of Amy Hildreth	and George Hutfilz
Debbie – friend of Scherrs	Sonya Johnson – aunt of JoAnn Jordan	Swisher Family – family of Kathie
Ed – friend of Sandy Choquette	Nicole Ketler – friend of Susan	Snyder
Donnie – community meal guest	Burmaster	Dan Torrence – friend of K. Snyder
Jeff – community meal guest	Philip Koepke – friend of Irene Felicetti	David Van Ness – brother of Missy
Mark – friend of M & D Hillerich	Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy	Craig
Rick – nephew of Linda Knight	Lindemann	Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- friends of
Sharon – friend of Jane Schubert	Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich	Jim Paulsson
Susan – friend of C. Paxton		Curtis Weckwerth – cousin of Rich
Tunde – friend of Irene Felicetti		Weckwerth
Marie – friend of C. Paxton		John and Janet Welther – family of
Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of		Ethel Hamilton
Acevedo		
Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson		
Kareem Ali – friend of Fred Melton		

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 2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, Florida 34239 Phone: 941.955.6479 Fax: 941.955.8600 ECLC Phone: 941.955.6480 Website: www.StPaulSarasota.org

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Executive Committee JoAnn Jordan, President Judy Roberts, Vice President George Hutfilz, Treasurer Irene Felicetti, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti Lori Fountain-Guillaume Amy Hildreth JoAnn Jordan Bob Lariviere Pr. Ashley Nicolls Nancy Parmakian Judy Roberts

Mike Scherr Esther Smith Alexandra Wise







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