

*Fifth Sunday
of Easter*



In-Person/Live Service

May 2, 2021

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021



*Future services will be recorded and aired on YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV.
MeTV will broadcast Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m. on the following channels:
For DirecTV: Ch. 67; For Cable, Fios, and Dish: Ch. 5; For "Rabbit Ears": Ch. 67-1*

Call to Worship

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- C We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
- P Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

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

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Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

- P 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.

Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

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

- P The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th Chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.



Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Steve Biegner

Hymn of the Day: LBW 513

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under rests. The lyrics are: 1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a; 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a; 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a; way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all; light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in; joy as none can move; such a love as none can; strife; such a life as con - quers death. length; such a strength as makes his guest. part; such a heart as joys in love.

1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as con - quers death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Apostles' Creed

A Let's confess the faith of the Church together using the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the Church

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.

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, especially the people named on our Prayer List, and those we name either silently or aloud. 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.**

A 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.**

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, 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

- 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



Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

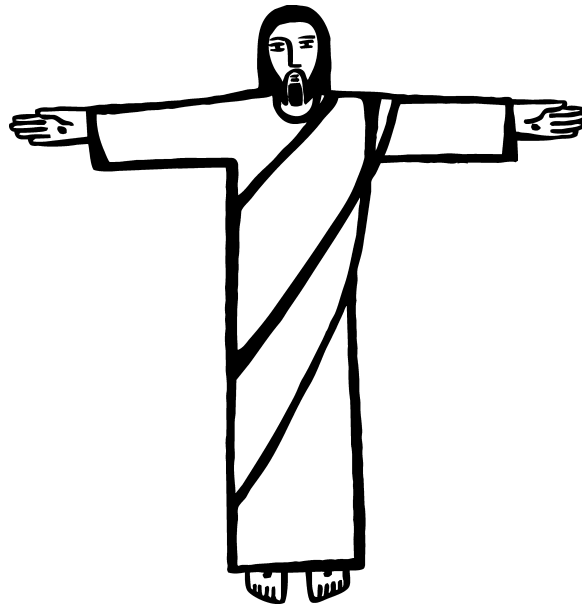
- P Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

Benediction

- P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...
- C Amen.

Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P Let's go in peace, remember the poor, and serve our risen Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: May 2-9, 2021

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
10:40 am: Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following In-Person service
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck at Amherst High School
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
- Wednesday:** 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting
12:30 pm: Staff Meeting via Zoom
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
3:00-6:00 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Community Meal Share
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
9:00 am-12:00 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Community Meal Share
- Sunday:** 10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Attendance last week: YouTube/Facebook/MeTV: 200+ In-Person: 58 Offering: \$3,111.00

Prayer List: In our congregational family: (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Marion Alexander: Tennyson Court, #127 in Memory Care Unit, Williamsville, NY 14221

Neal DeLeo: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Claire Franke: Elderwood, 225 Bennett Road, #223, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

*Chad Israel

Christopher Magin: 22 Dale Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

*The family of Mary Elizabeth Stewart who passed away April 26

Prayer List: In our and extended family: Ira Striejewske; Shirley McNamara (Nancy Simon's sister); Ralph Vahue; Thomas Maier

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: We resumed Sunday in-person worship beginning at 10:00 am. As we previously handled in-person worship, reservations are requested if you plan to attend any of the in-person services. You will still need to wear face masks, maintain limited capacity in the sanctuary, and adhere to current Covid-19 protocols. Please contact the Church Office at 716-835-0407 to make your reservation. If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Covid-19 Restrictions: While zone designations (yellow, orange, red) remain in various areas, we ask that you not stop by the Church Office unannounced. If you need to come to the office or meet with Pastor Steve, please call ahead and make an appointment (716-835-0407). This way we can continue to keep you and our staff safe during this difficult time.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The May Pantry hours are Thursday 5/6 and 5/20 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and Saturday 5/8 and 5/22 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Donations for May are: condiments, rice, and cereal.

Daily Bread Food Truck News: The DBFT will be parked in the Amherst High School front parking lot every Monday from 5:00-7:00 pm, to hand out free meals to the community. A number of neighborhood eateries will be teaming with the DBFT to “host” these meals. If you would like to volunteer to help out on Mondays, please contact Katie at 835-0407.



Annual Congregation Meeting: The Annual May Congregational Meeting will take place today following the In-Person service. You will be able to attend the meeting in-person or via Zoom (Zoom link will be sent with the May 2 Worship Links.) During the meeting, updates on the building renovations will be given; we will vote for three Council members from the following candidates for 2021-2024: Kathryn Francis, Matt Fricano, Cheryl Gillen, and Gerri Horton. (Sue Renken-Mintzer is completing her second term, and Vern Stein will not be running for a second term.) There will also be a vote on a Constitutional Amendment at follows: Proposed Constitutional Amendment: C21.05.01. and C21.05. We want to modify C21.05 from, “Endowment funds will consider a percentage of the balance at year-end to be the income for that year. The percentage will be set in the bylaws, but must be between five (5) percent and ten (10) percent.” to “Endowment funds will consider a percentage of the balance at year-end to be the income for that year, as needed. The maximum percentage will be ten (10) percent.” C21.05.01 should be modified from, “The income percentage shall be six (6) percent of the ending balance each year.” to “The income percentage will be as proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by Council at the December meeting.”



+ St. Paul's Mission +

To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Debbie Regan-Howe Vice-President: Janell Andersen

Secretary: Cheryl Gillen Treasurer: William Niblock

Susan Epstein Nick Hazlett Susan Mintzer David Schunak Robert Simpson Vern Stein

Pastor at St. Paul's: Rev. Steve Biegner (868-1232 - cell)

E-mail: steve@stpaulseggertsville.org

Director of Music: Paul H. Storfer

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

Parish Administrator: Katie Basham

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