

*Third Sunday
of Easter*



In-Person/Live Service

April 18, 2021

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 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.

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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 Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Psalm 4

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

A Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

C **“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

A Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

C **Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

A Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

C **Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

A You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

C **In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th Chapter.

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

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Steve Biegner



Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
do, for - give." Yet we heard as pri - vate trea - sure
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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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.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness, especially the people named on our Prayer List, and those we name either silently or aloud. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. 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: April 18-25, 2021

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
10:40 am: Zoom Half-Hour (<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84667134122>)
Meeting ID: 846 6713 4122
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck at Amherst High School
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
6:00 pm: Burrito Project
- 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
10:40 am: Zoom Half-Hour (<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84667134122>)
Meeting ID: 846 6713 4122
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Attendance last week: YouTube/Facebook/MeTV: 200+ In-Person: 72 Offering: \$5,316.00

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

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

Mary Elizabeth Stewart: 69 Washington Highway, Amherst, NY 14226

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

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 April Pantry hours are Thursday 4/29 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and Saturday 4/24 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Donations for April are: canned fruit and canned vegetables.

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.



New Missionaries: We welcome the following people who joined St. Paul's last week: Shirley, Will, Torrance, Layla and Andre Barnes, Falisha and Dontay Cox, Eric Tyree, Mildred Adams, and Ariel Lindse; Michelle and Lauren Biegner; Joel and Joanne Carter; Heidi Ginal; Kevin Koestler; Judy and Jim Meyer; Sharon and Wesley Ries; Vanessa and Cortez Solomon



+ 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

E-mail: katie@stpaulseggertsville.org

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