

Fifth Sunday of Easter



*May 6, 2023
5:00 pm
St. Paul's Amherst Lutheran Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Amherst Lutheran Campus
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 6, 2023*

Pre-Service Music: Adam Schmidt

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

P We gather as community, joyfully, humbly, privileged to be able to worship in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, you know our hearts, you know our desires, nothing is hidden from you: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and the actions of our bodies by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may live into our best lives in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

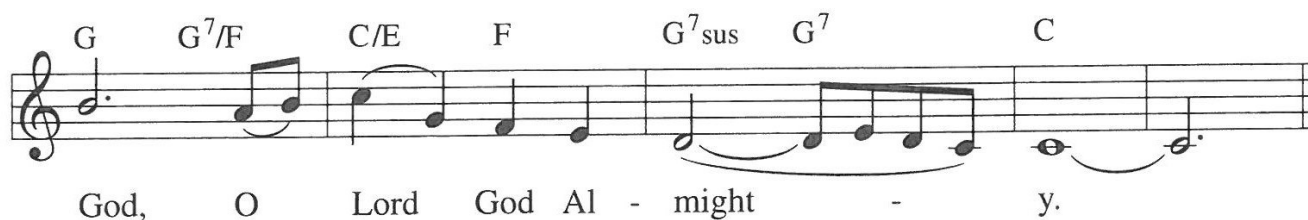
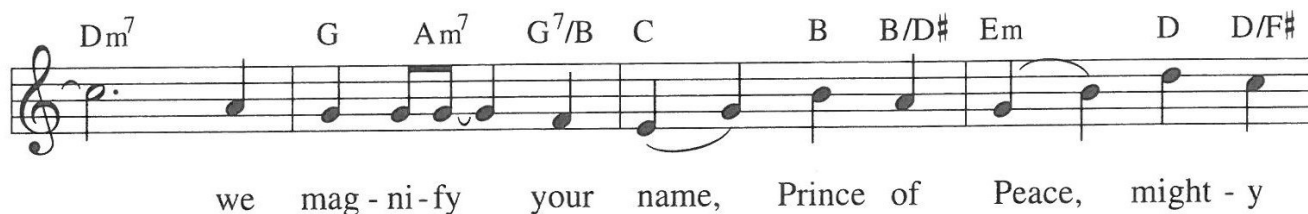
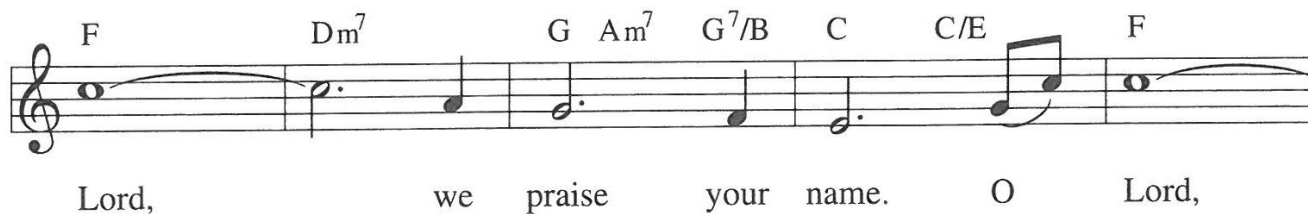
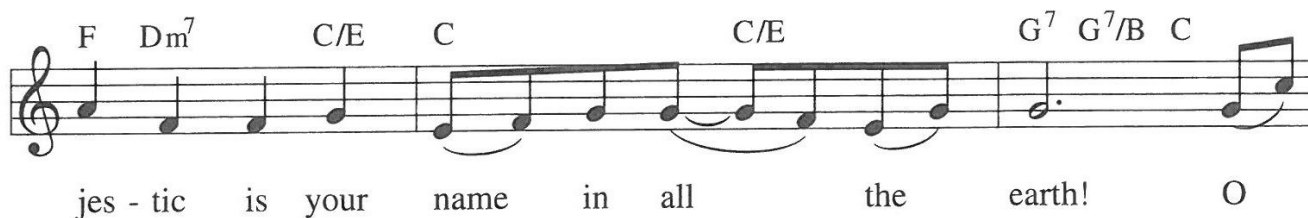
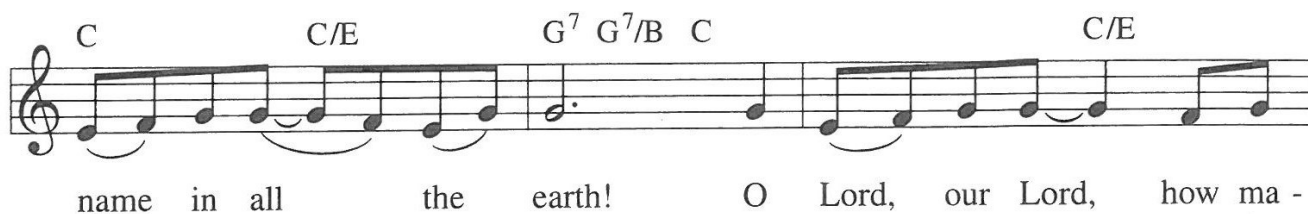
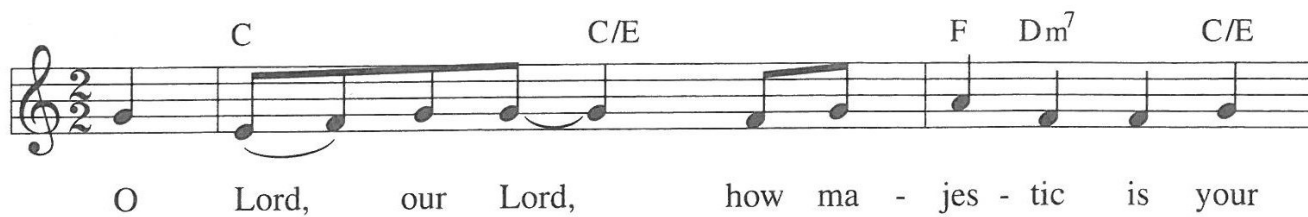
C We confess how far we stray from your design. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we let happen. We forget to love you with our whole heart; we forget to love our neighbors as well, especially those that don't look like us or believe the way we do. So gracious Lord, please have mercy on us. Forgive us, change us, lead us and help us actually listen, so that each step we walk will reflect the amazing love and grace you have for us.

P These are sacred moments when we name it: our brokenness, our imperfections, our shortcomings. It's needed and important. But more powerful than all of that is God's amazing grace for you. Hold your heads up! You are loved children of God and nothing will ever change that! So, it's an honor and privilege as a leader of this community to remind you of the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Celebration of KNAC

How majestic is your name



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 Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Praise Song: ELW 388

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The first system of musical notation for 'Be Not Afraid' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a half note G4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are repeated below the treble staff.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (read responsively)

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

A In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

C **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

A Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

C **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

A Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

C **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

A Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana
Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana

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P The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th Chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

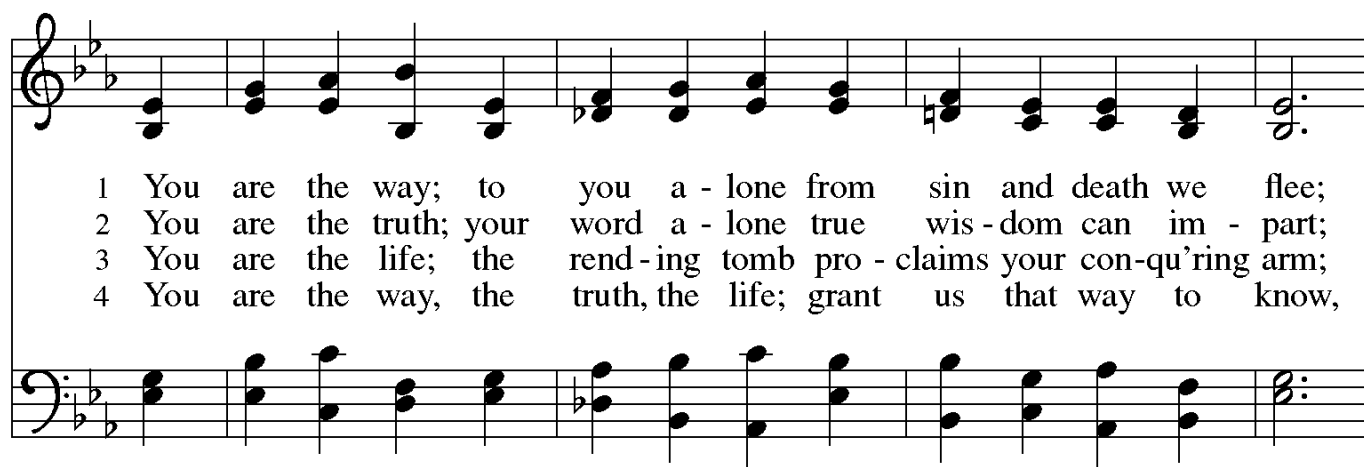
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

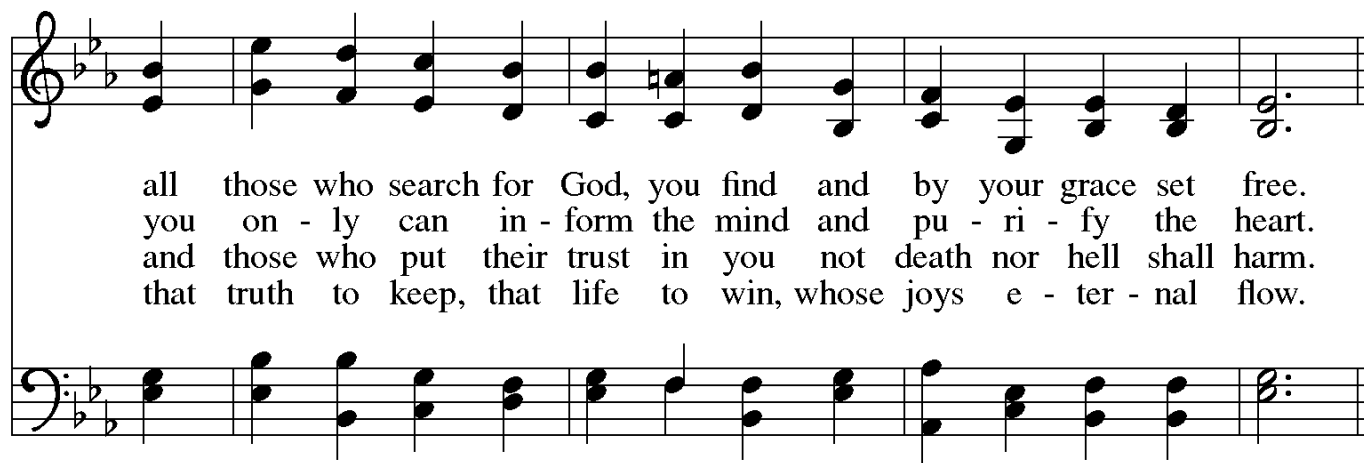
Sermon

Sermon Hymn: ELW 758

You Are the Way



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith in 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 United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

A Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and the plague of racism that threatens, destroys, and kills. Root out white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred, both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to truth-telling and healing. Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

- A Immanuel, God with us, you embrace in love those who cry out to you. Lift up all whom hatred has cast down; embolden those who need courage to speak and act against oppression; sustain those who are weary from efforts that bring no end to injustice. Comfort parents weeping for children, children who have been separated from parents, and families in crises of any kind. Restore hope where it has been lost, so that all may trust your love that reaches to the depths of pain and suffering. Hear us, O God,
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Offering Hymn: WOV 612

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Offering Prayer

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

With our return to in-person worship, we thought we would let you know about a couple of options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

Dialogue and Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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 Hymn: Lamb of God, WOV 621

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

*1** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

2 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.

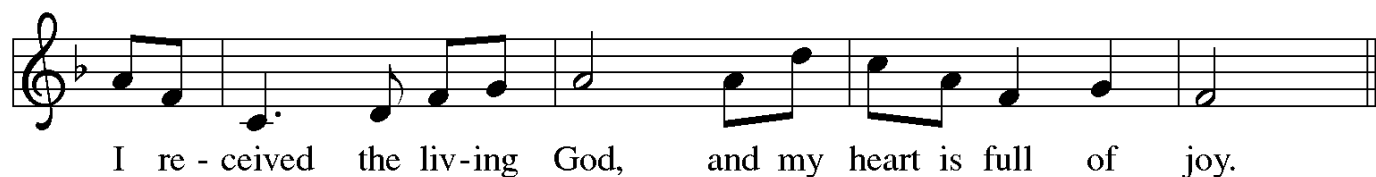
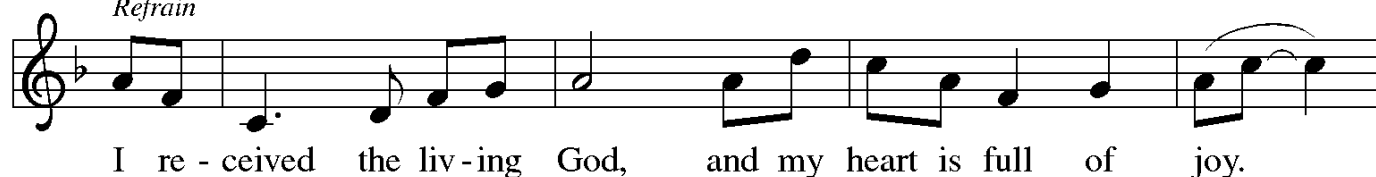
Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the assisting minister holding the wine. Children are welcome!

Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Distribution Hymn: WOV 700

I Received the Living God

Refrain



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain



so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

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 Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
- C Amen.

Benediction

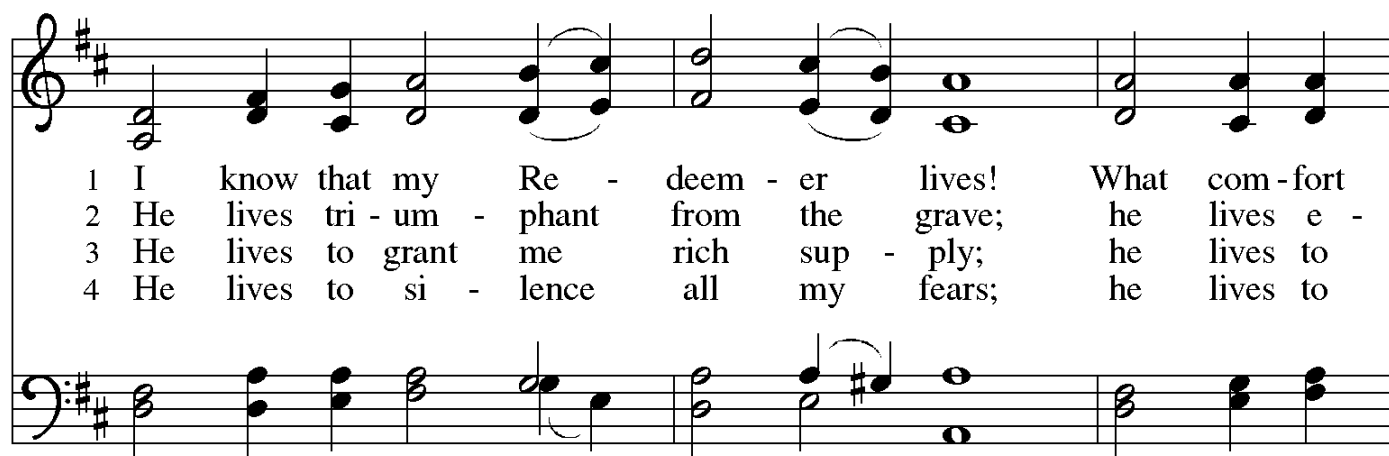
- P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,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

Closing Hymn: LBW 352 (on the following page)

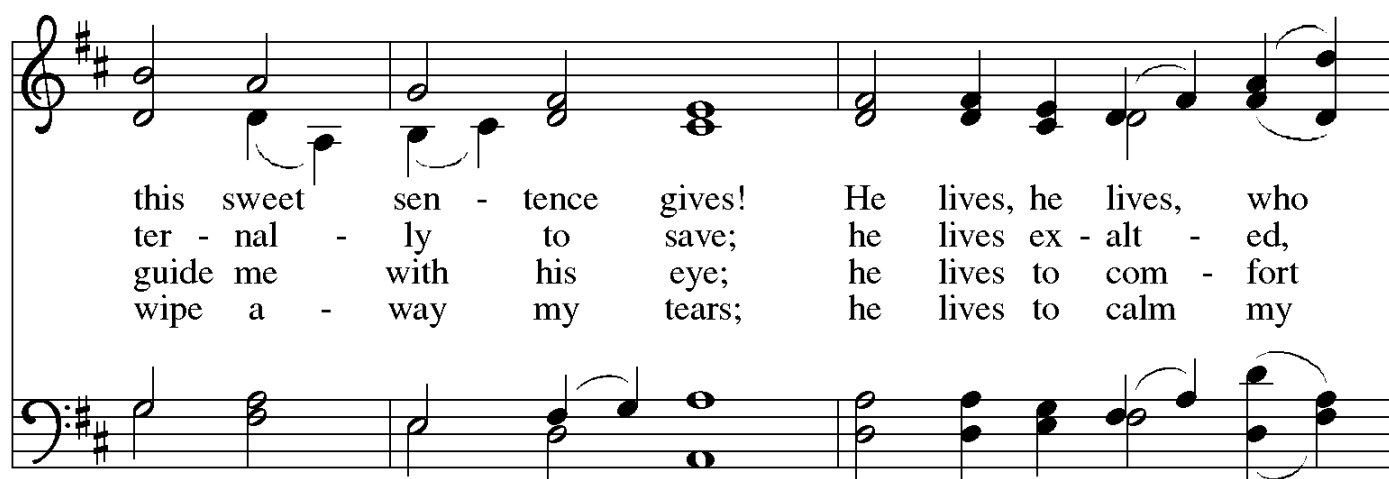
Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: May 7-14, 2023

SUNDAY: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Baptism of Mia Elizabeth Suffoletto
10:00 am: Sunday School
11:15 am: Baptism of Lillian Marie Phillips
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Monday: 6:00-7:00 pm: Family Support Center Meeting

Tuesday: 10:00 am: Bible Study

Wednesday: 10:00 am: Comforters Meeting
12:30 pm: Staff Meeting
8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: 6:00 pm: Alanon

Saturday: 8:30-9:30 am: Men's Breakfast
9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at ALC

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Baptism of Isabella Calandra
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (indicates new names or changes added this week)*

Lee Abel: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
Robert Baus: 30 Westchester Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221
Evelyn Berger: 644 Campbell Boulevard, Getzville, NY 14068
Joyce Chace: 80 Culpepper Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
Neal DeLeo: Bristol Village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
Jan Isaacs: #6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004
Omar Jenson: The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY 14580
Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221
Jon Mott: Brookdale, 6076 Main Street, #B8, Williamsville, NY 14221
Ron Wolfe: 324 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

Prayer List: *In our congregational and extended family:* David Ihrig; Kurt Parker Venator (Richard Venator's grandson); Elwood & Jaroslava Chase (Karlen Chase's parents); Shaun Woods; Tracy Robinson; Michael Wallace; Rick Schmidt; Laura Sweet; Greyson Knox; Ira Striejewski; Gary Schmidt; David Wolf; Thomas Maier; Joanna Heizmann; Joan Chatham; Jerry Bucklaew; Joe Falletta; Debbie Lingenfelter; Maureen Kraus; Sally O'Connell; Patrick Irving; Jennifer Ryszkiewicz; Don Irving; Gail Adema; Gail Andrews; Amy Dickinson; Dean Honsberger; Janet Mustard; Suzanne Gustafson

In-Person Worship: *St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Lutheran Campus, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.*

Church Unleashed: *If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.*

Tigers Den Food Pantry: *The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, anyone associated with Amherst Lutheran Campus, or by referral. May pantry hours are: 3:00-6:30 pm on Thursday 5/18, and 9:00 am-12:30 pm on Saturday 5/13 and 5/27. Donations for May: salad dressing, salsa, ketchup, mayonnaise.*

Daily Bread Food Truck: *We have concluded our 2022-2023 Monday Meal Share season. Our 2023-2024 Monday Meal Share will begin again in October. For more information to volunteer or donate, please contact the church office at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com.*

ALC Book Club: *The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the narthex at Amherst Lutheran Campus beginning at 7:15 pm. All are welcome! May Book Club meeting and reading selection: Thursday, May 11, reading Under the Whispering Door by T. J. Klune. Book for June: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. For more information contact Karin Johnson at 716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.*

Amherst Sidewalk Vigil: *A time to honor and remember May 14, 2022: Saturday, May 13 from 2:00-2:30 pm, Main Street in Amherst. Gather anywhere on the sidewalks of Main Street from Bailey Avenue to Transit Road. Church bells throughout the town will ring 10 times at 2:20 pm to honor and remember those who died at Tops. Bring chalk and write messages and symbols of love, hope, and peace. Take pictures and share using #AmherstSidewalkVigil.*

In our area: *Boy Scout Troop 261 will be sponsoring a Chiavetta's BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, May 21 from 3-6 pm in the parking lot at St. Benedict's Church (corner of Main and Eggert). Take out only! Each dinner costs \$15.00 and includes 1/2 chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and roll and butter.*

>>>>>  Lutheran Charities
of Western New York Presents... <<<<<



@ SAHLEN FIELD

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND

IT'S A FRIDAY NIGHT BASH!:
Resurgence Brewing Happy Hour @ 5pm
Game Time @ 7:05 & Postgame Fireworks!

Game Tickets: \$15 each
Game Tickets w/ Discounted Concessions: \$23 each
(includes: hotdog & soda)

REGISTER by MAY 30th
Online at www.WNYLutheranCharities.org
or Download a Mail-In Ticket Order Form



+ 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: Kathryn Francis

Vice-President: David Schunak

Treasurer: William Niblock

Secretary: Gerri Horton

*Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein Sara Hannon
Janet Schmidt Robert Simpson Vanessa Solomon Scott Vahue*

Pastors

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
Kristen Arends (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Directors of Music

Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)

Adam Schmidt (ALC)

Christian Education Coordinator

June Piette

Youth Ministry

Adam Weber

Digital Ministry

Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary, and Judy Polowy

E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com

Telephone: (716) 835-0407

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org