

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1626 EAST BROADWAY AVE.
ENID, OKLAHOMA 73703
PHONE: 234-6646

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April 28, 2024

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Rev. David H. Reber, Jr., Pastor

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Follow us on Facebook at: **St. Paul's Lutheran Church & St. Paul's Lutheran School**

9:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

We welcome you to our worship service this morning.

St. Paul's has a service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Sunday School meets at 10:15 AM.

We request that members and visitors fill out an attendance card.

Please pass the card down to the center aisle after the offering.

You are welcomed in this house.

The Mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is:

Preach and Teach to ALL, Comfort and Support those in need!

ACOLYTE: Bryson Wiederkehr

RECORDING: Gerald Nolte

ELDER OF THE DAY: Rick Lunday & Jonathan Becker

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Rick Lunday & Jonathan Becker

SCRIPTURE READER: Martha Gabriel

USHERS: Gene Breitenkamp, Chris Burdick, Jerry Miller and Chris Bauer

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Hinrichs Family

ATTENDANCE: April 21, 2024: 9:00 AM – 21

NEEDED WEEKLY: \$15,729 **OFFERING:** \$4,505

As We Gather: When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN – “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” – LSB #913



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts
2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,



Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing



Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love



us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.



That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing
Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er



Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.
And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

People: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

People: **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

People: **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

Pastor: We prepare for our time of confession as we sing the confession hymn, "O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art." As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✕ WORD ✕

INTROIT – Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

People: **I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

People: **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

People: **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

HYMN – “O Blessed Spring” – LSB #595



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953 Tune: English Text: © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568 Tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was

denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 150

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!

People: **Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!**

Pastor: Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

People: **Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!**

Pastor: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

People: **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle: 1 John 4:1–21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this

world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE: Romans 6:9; John 14:23

Pastor: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

People: **Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1–8

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" – LSB #633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phane go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!
- △ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON by Rev. David H. Reber, Jr.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (see 1 Corinthians 11:29-30), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this Altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor, or an elder.

PREFACE: 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that, firmly connected to Christ the Vine, we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6: 9-13

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.

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

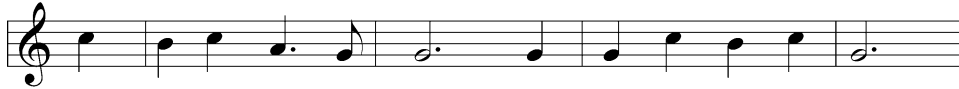
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" – LSB #807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's ho - ly house of prayer
 Than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round
 Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur - few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Hath none that can com - pare With "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828, Würzburg; tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96 Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate" – LSB #540



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
 food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
 You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
 thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
 branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unailing
 To the Father's home on high,
 Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
 Christ, the life that cannot die.
 Mediator to the Father,
 Sacrifice and great High Priest:
 Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
 There to share Your wedding feast.

△ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
 Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
 Christ, the life and resurrection,
 Christ, the Church's glorious head:
 Praise and thanks and adoration
 And unending worship be
 To the Father and the Spirit
 And to You eternally.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati Text: © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568 Tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" – LSB #845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt. Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842 Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568 Tune: Public domain

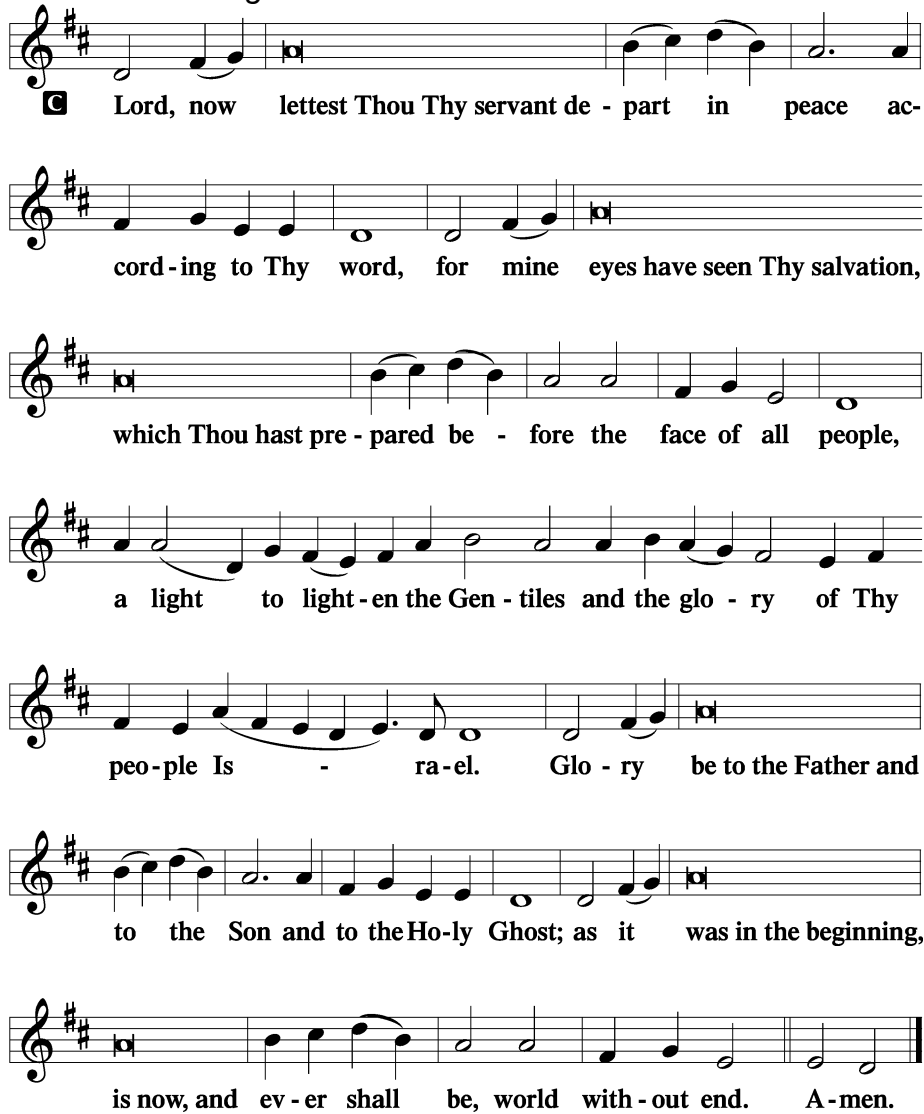
DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" – LSB #806

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en__
Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be-cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952 Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide as branches of the Vine, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN: "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" – LSB #691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932 Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568 Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004568

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord!
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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We pray your worship with us was a Blessing and God will grant you a rich and Blessed week.

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If you are a first time visitor please let one of the ushers in the back know – they have a gift from the LWML waiting for you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENROLLMENT: School enrollment is now open to ALL GRADES! Please contact Rachel in the office if you have any questions, (580)234-6646.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: We are looking for volunteers to usher, record sound, record the livestream, lead songs, read scripture, attend the nursery, or serve on various ministry teams. If you are looking for a way to serve, please contact the office. Maybe we can help you find the right fit!

LIVESTREAM: If you are unable to attend with us in person, all services are streamed live on our website www.stpaulsenid.com. Just select Livestream at the top of the page. You can also watch the recording after the service at the same link.

NEW WAYS TO GIVE: You may now give tithes and offerings online through our website. Just visit www.stpaulsenid.com and select online giving on the home page. You can also text **SPLC** (888) 444-8774. You can also scan:



SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us during our Sunday School hour at 10:15 AM. We have a class for age 3 through grade 12 that meets in the all-purpose room. An adult class meets in the church basement and Pastor Reber's adult class meets in the library.

MITE MONTH: April is MITE month! LWML will collect the noisy offering for MITES. Mites are used to support LWML missions throughout the year. Thank you for your contributions.

DIAPER SHOWER: The LWML is hosting a diaper shower for Jenny and Mason Grittmann during the month of April. **Baby wipes** are also needed. A collection box will be in the narthex for your donations. We appreciate your gifts for baby boy Grittmann, who is due to arrive in May! **THE LAST SUNDAY TO BRING DIAPERS AND WIPES IS SUNDAY, MAY 5TH.**

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: April 28, 500 pm, ECC will be the next family video which will feature the story of Noah as presented by Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, MO. This video will be about two hours long and, while live on stage, I am sure you will find this production to be one of the best you have ever seen. Free popcorn and water will be available, you may bring your own drink and/or snacks if you wish. Hope to see you there.

BRIDGE: Ever wanted to learn to play cards, especially the game Bridge? We have a Bridge group that meets here two afternoons a week and they are willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. It's a great time of fellowship and fun. They meet on **Mondays and Thursdays at 12:30 PM** at the Eastside Community Center (1810 E. Broadway Ave.). Come and join us. No experience necessary.

BALANCE & STRENGTH: This class will meet every **Tuesday & Thursday at 11:00 AM** at the Eastside Community Center (1810 E. Broadway Ave.). If you are interested or plan to exercise, call Linda Ragoss, 234-7343, or there may be no one to greet you. We would love for you to join us!

VISITING CIRCLE: The women in Visiting Circle attempt to make calls and visits to members of the congregation when they are in the hospital or are shut in. They will prepare shut-in baskets with the help of other groups, and/or send Christmas cards to the shut-in list provided by the office. They will send various cards during the year to church members for support and encouragement. Join us for our monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 12:30 PM, at the Eastside Community Center (1810 E. Broadway Ave.)

SERVICE CIRCLE: The women in Service Circle handle the funeral dinners by making arrangements with the families, preparing the meals and serving them as needed. They notify the LWML when there are needed supplies for kitchen upkeep. They support and do various community work during the year in the community. Join us for our monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Please join us for a Men's Bible Study at Boomerang (721 S. Oakwood Rd.). We will meet at **7:00 AM each Friday.**

CAMP LUTHERHOMA: It's time to sign up for Camp Lutherhoma! Please visit our website www.stpaulsenid.com for more information. You can also obtain a camp St. Paul's scholarship application on our website. **The sign up deadline is May 1st!**

WALK WITH PAUL: During May we are encouraging everyone to walk again. Please participate in the Walk with Paul Walker's program that has started. You will be literally following in the footsteps of St. Paul. The first bible study is Paul's First Missionary journey. You can count the steps with any device you have such as fitbit or apple watch. 1 mile = about 2,000 steps. Set your own personal goal and go at your own personal speed. Record your steps and give them to Steve Wiederkehr. He is tracking them on a bulletin board at the ECC. There are bible studies on video and available through the church website. Please register by filling out the form in the office so you can enjoy encouragement and celebrations.

125TH ANNIVERSARY: Zion Lutheran church celebrates their 125th anniversary on Sunday, May 5th.

CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARY: The confirmation class of 1974 will be recognized on Sunday, May 5, 2024, during the service. Donuts and coffee will be served downstairs and there will be a meet and greet from 8:00 – 8:45 PM. There will also be a quick reception after the service with cake leasing into Sunday School. You can see the class photo on our church Facebook page. Please join us!

GARDENING: The Youth Group is looking for individuals who need a little assistance in their garden this year, particularly those who are having trouble getting around like they used to. If you would like some help, please contact Taylor Mansoor at (949) 441-9021.

PRAYERS

Hospitalized:

Recovering: Robert Jack, Trudy Clark, Dan Koonce & Patsy Herth

Cancer Patients: Becky Perring Aerns, Pat Becker, Brett Bersche, Tommy Deterding, Bud Durham, Jill Fischaber, Judy Helberg, Dan Koonce, Dominic Lichtenberg, Lisa Logan-Roussell, Ruth Lyons, Gene Mansker, Lois Maxwell, Arno Pautsch, Poma Rico, Richard Simpson, Kevin Usry and Sandy Williams

Medical Problems: Steve Allen, Hank Bland, David Braley, Gehl Caldwell, Cecil Durham, Elizabeth Ferguson, Matthew Hagans, Mike Helberg, Don Herth, Mike Krienke, Fran Kroll, Milburn Kroll, Ralph Kroll, Walter & Pat Lemke, Kathy McVey, Eddie Morris, Sharyn Mueller, Kim Mullen, Steve Nobis, Shirleen Otipoby, Rebecca Peters, Rev. Larry Reinhardt, Ramie Scheel, Valera Sheets, Steve Simpson, Kathy Snowden & Zion Sundoval

Hospice: Marj Chandler

Prayer Requests: Please keep the family and friends of Esther Mittelstet, who passed away Wednesday, in your prayers. Her service will be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 4, 2024, with Rev. Wade & Rev. Reber, Jr., officiating under the care of Ladusau-Evans Funeral Home.

Birthdays: April 21st – Ashley Machia; April 25th – Lisa Hartfiel; April 26th – Becky Eggers & Steven Nobis; April 27th – Tim Braley & Abigail Hinrichs

Anniversaries: April 22nd – Max & Crystal Heim; April 23rd – Brandon & Patricia Jung; April 25th – Chris & Courtney Campbell and Bud & Patricia Durham; April 27th – Robert & Brenda Sims

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUN. 04/28

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Communion
9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
5:00 PM Movie Night

MON. 04/29

12:30 PM Bridge
12:30 PM Finance Board

TUE. 04/30

11:00 AM Balance & Strength

WED. 05/01

9:00 AM Chapel
12:30 PM Visiting Circle
1:00 PM Service Circle

THU. 05/02

11:00 AM Balance & Strength
12:30 PM Bridge
7:00 PM Children's Ministry Team

FRI. 05/03

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

SAT. 05/04

1:00 PM Esther Mittelstet – Funeral

SUN. 05/05

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Zion Lutheran (Alva) 125th Anniversary
9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School

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John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.