

April 29 & May 2, 2021

Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Beloit, Wisconsin

Worship Bulletin

Website: www.stpaulbeloit.org

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GATHERING – *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the day:

**All: when tears are wiped away;
shattered hearts are mended;
fears are overcome with joy.**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord:

**All: rolls away the stone of fear;
throws off death's clothes;
goes ahead of us into God's future.**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made:

**All: death holds no fear for us;
sin has lost its power over us;
God opens the tombs of our hearts, to fill us with life.**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made! Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen indeed – Alleluia!

Written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies: <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Join me in a time of confession and forgiveness.

God of Life, we are in awe of what You are doing in all of creation and in us.

**All: Break open our hearts of stone to perceive Your goodness and mercy.
Break open our minds when we have closed ourselves to the needs of this world.
Break open our whole lives, to live into Your created intention for us:
to love You and to love our neighbor as ourselves.
Break us open, O God, as dawn breaks across the land.
In the name of the risen Christ, who broke open the tomb, we pray. Amen.**

Pastor: If Christ can break forth from the tomb, there is nothing that can hold us in our sin and death. In the name of the Risen Christ, you are **✝** forgiven. You are loved. You are set free to love one another in this world. Share the good news of the resurrection, of new life in Christ, now and forevermore.

All: Amen.

Adapted from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, ©2021. Used by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of deep soil and luxuriant growth, you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you; may we abide in Jesus, who alone can teach us who we are; through Christ who is the true vine we pray.

All: Amen.

“Eater 5 (John 15.1-8)” from Prayers for an Inclusive Church, by Stephen Shakespeare.

WORD – *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING**ACTS 8:26-40**

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, “At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Approach this carriage and stay with it.”

³⁰Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you really understand what you are reading?”

³¹The man replied, “Without someone to guide me, how could I?” Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³²This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn’t open his mouth.*

³³*In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?"³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. ² He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. ⁶ If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR LUCY WYNARD

SONG OF THE DAY

Down to the River To Pray

arranged by Eric Bright

Verse 1

As I went down in the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord show me the way

Verse 2

As I went down in the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord show me the way

Chorus

Oh sisters (brothers sinners) let's go down
Let's go down come on down
Oh sisters (brothers sinners) let's go down
Down in the river to pray

Verse 3

As I went down in the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord show me the way

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Today we are delighted to welcome the following people as new members of St. Paul Lutheran Church: Donna Blum, Patricia Edge, David Frank, Paul Foslin, and Melanie Schneider. If you haven't had the chance, please make a point to say hello and get to know each of them in the weeks and months ahead.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Pastor: Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

***New Members:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

***All:* We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Pastor: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

***All:* We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You are encouraged to share your prayer concerns by typing a name or a few words in the comment box on YouTube or Facebook, or by saying the names aloud.

Intercessor: 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. *A brief silence.*

Intercessor: 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: God, 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: God, you rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of this world 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: God, 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. We pray especially for those on our hearts, whom we name now . . . (. . . *pause 10 seconds* . . .). . . . Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: God, 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: We give you thanks for our new members – Donna, Pat, David, Paul and Melanie. You have drawn them to yourself by the love of Jesus, and it is our privilege to welcome them into this household of faith called St. Paul. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and prayer, and in service to others. . . . Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Intercessor: 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.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: 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.

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Take a moment to creatively share a sign of peace with those with you. Think of others whom you wish a blessing of Christ's peace. Pray for them briefly, and consider texting, calling, or writing them a note this week.

OFFERING

You are encouraged to continue to give as you are able in this time of worshiping online. You can mail your offerings to St. Paul: 617 St. Lawrence Ave, Beloit, WI 53511. Or give online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=531526>. Please check the eNews and newsletter for other ways to support God's Work, Our Hands in our community and around the world.

SENDING – <i>God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.</i>
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ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this week were donated by Cathy Oswald, in memory of Lynn Oswald.

SENDING SONG

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389

See page 10

SENDING BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go now as God's chosen witnesses, to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not be afraid.

May God raise you from all that would entomb you;

May Christ Jesus ☩ abide in you and give you life;

And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

***People:* Amen.**

Pastor: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Blessing and Dismissal adapted from Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources by Nathan Nettleton, as found on LaughingBird.net.

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SERVING YOU TODAY

Pastor

Organist & Director of Music

Reader

Intercessor

Rev. Lucy Wynard

David Frank

Chet Organ

Marilyn Harris

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

*We offer our prayers and deepest condolences to the families and all who loved
Jane Svennevig, who passed away on April 13,
and Stella Dressler, who passed away on April 18.*

May God comfort and sustain those who mourn.

Kristina (Pat Baker's granddaughter); **Terry & Marlene G.** (Beth Rodermel's friends); **Beth R.**; **Pat S.** (Henry Pann's cousin); **Ellwyn E.** (Cathy Oswald's brother-in-law); **Ray** (Chet Organ's brother); **Janice S.** (Katie Hassenfelt's mother); **Dick H.** (Katie Hassenfelt's father-in-law); **Tracy C.** (father of Tori & Trevor Carr's father); **Dick P.** (Chet Organ's friend); **Charlene B.**; **Jennifer and all those who seek shelter**; **Robin B.** (Resa Haile's friend); **Rick M.**; **Roger E.**; **Amy F.**; **Will S.**; **Kathy W.** (Pastor Lucy's mother-in-law); **Lynn** (Jan Knutson's college friend); **Jane and Egil**; **Tori C.**; **Tom** (Billie Kenitzer's brother); **RL**; **Kathy P.**; **Juelane** (Mark Mueller's sister); **Larry & Shayne M.** (St. Paul Soup Lunch friends); **Carol M.**; **Steve H.**; **Timothy W.**; **Shirley** (Ken Harris's mother); **all who have been diagnosed with or are waiting for test results or are otherwise affected by COVID-19; and all those affected by the violence in our nation and around the world; and friends and family in the military.**

Names will usually be kept on the prayer list for two months unless otherwise requested.

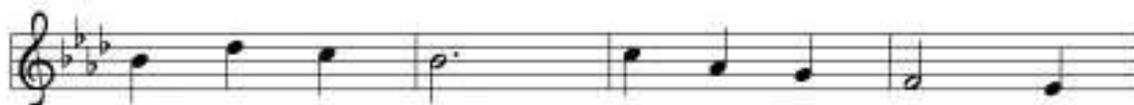
Please let us know if you have any additions for the prayer list.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise,
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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