



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

124 Maple Street North, Box 38
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

Worship: 8:15 and 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:15 am

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Church Staff:

Rev. Eric Nelson, Pastor; Katie Litzau, DCE; Amanda Streufert, Administrative Assistant

May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

PRESERVICE

CHURCH BELLS/WELCOME

HYMN #744: “Amazing Grace” (*Verses 1-4*) *Text and tune: Public domain*

1. Amazing grace- how sweet the sound- That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

2. The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C: O Lord, who could stand?

P: But with you there is forgiveness

C: therefore you are feared.

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

COLLECT

O God, you make the minds of your faithful to be of one will; therefore grant to your people that they may love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the manifold changes of this age our hearts may ever be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING.....Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ An 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. ²⁷ And 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 ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now 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. ³³ In 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.

EPISTLE.....1 John 4:1-11

¹ Beloved, 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. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and 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. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We 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.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In 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. ¹⁰ In 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

HOLY GOSPEL.....John 15:1-8

¹ [Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide 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. ⁵ I 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. ⁶ If 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

HYMN: “My Jesus I Love Thee” *Copyright 2000 Word Music, Inc., Used by permission CCLI#643019*

My Jesus, I love Thee; I know Thou art mine.
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.

SERMON “How to Make a Difference” (*1 John 4:7-11*)

THE 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

HYMN #770: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" *Text and music: Public Domain*

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear-
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

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MEMORY VERSE:

1 John 5:11 ~ *"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. BIBLE STUDY- A new Bible study will begin on the parables of Jesus. Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Bible Study will be held on May 12, 19, and 26.

2. VBS/CAMP OMEGA- Please see the May Lamplighter for updates about Vacation Bible School/Camp Omega, to be held in July. Early Registration forms for St. Paul members are available on our church website www.stpaulp.org under VBS/Camp Omega.

3. ASCENSION DAY SERVICE- There will be a joint Ascension Day service on Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 PM at St. Peter Lutheran, Lester Prairie.

4. LWML- Regular monthly meeting of St. Paul LWML will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 3rd in the church basement. (Masks and social distancing guidelines in place.) Monthly donations are designated for American Bible Society. ALL women of St. Paul Lutheran are encouraged to attend. Join us in Christian fellowship in service to our Lord!

5. LWML-This Month's Mission Donation: Orphan Grain Train
The Orphan Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical, and other needed items to people in 69 different countries including the USA. Donations made during May will be sent to OGT to help defray their costs for shipping.

6. MINUTES from the Quarterly Voters Meeting are available on the table outside the Lower Narthex Doors. Also available are proposed changes to be made to the cemetery policy.

YOUTH

7. ACT CAMPFIRE - ACT will wrap up with an outdoor campfire on Sunday, May 16th from 6:30-8:00pm! This is open to all newly confirmed 8th graders-12th graders! This will be our last regular event of the school year!

8. KFC- Thank you to the KFC youth group for assembling 21 Birthday Boxes and 21 Hygiene kits for the McLeod County Food Shelf. We were able to donate 94 pounds of items.

9. GRADUATE RECOGNITION will be Sunday, May 23rd at the 9:30 am Outdoor Worship Service. This will be for all current High School Seniors. Information was sent out this past week. Please return your information and picture to Katie as soon as possible. If you did not receive any information, please reach out to DCE Katie.

10. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of our 2020-2021 Sunday School staff—Jen Schauer, Zach Jackson, Kara Lee, Terri Novotny, Tracy Peterson, Angie Christen, Darlene Schmidt, April Lee, Kim Schauer, Jen Mallak, JaNaye Dressler, Sharon Hittle, Karissa Rasset, Patsy Schauer, Katie Nelson, Brittany Litzau, Jennie Ruwersma, and Jane Holasek. We are very grateful for the amount of time and effort you have put into the Christian education here at St. Paul!

11. SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS- The last day of Sunday School will be TODAY Sunday, May 2nd.

12. OUTDOOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT- We will be hosting an outdoor Family Movie Night on Friday, May 14th at 8:00 PM. Join us for snacks as we enjoy the movie “Grace Unplugged.” Watch for more information. This is open to ALL Congregation and community members. (In case of rain, this event will be held indoors, following current COVID Policy guidelines).

MISC

13. PILLOW CLEANING will be held Wednesday, May 12th from 7:30 am-3:00 pm at Lester Prairie City Hall. This is sponsored by LP America Legion Auxiliary #463. See poster on the bulletin board for more information.

Calendar of Events

Sun. May 2nd	8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
Mon. May 3 rd	7:00 p.m.	LWML Meeting
Tues. May 4 th	6:00 p.m.	ECFE Class
Wed. May 5 th	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin
Sun. May 9th	8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP Adult Bible Study WORSHIP

May Worship Schedule:

Sunday, May 2nd- 8:15 and 10:00 AM Worship with Communion
Sunday, May 9th- 8:15 and 10:00 AM Worship
Thursday, May 13th- 7:00 PM Ascension Day Service at St. Peter,
 Lester Prairie
Sunday, May 16th- 8:00 and 9:30 AM Worship with Communion
 (Start of Summer Schedule)
Sunday, May 23rd- 8:00 AM Indoor service,
 9:30 AM Outdoor service with Communion
Sunday, May 30th- 9:00 AM Joint worship service with St. Peter,
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