

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

The Resurrection of our Lord: Easter Sunday

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prelude from Partita No. 3
Diane Mues, viola

J. S. Bach

The assembly is invited to rise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font and cross.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

All: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

All: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

All: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

All: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

All: Amen

During the singing, the ministers will sprinkle the assembly with water in remembrance of the renewing power of our baptism.

GREETING

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus, the powerful love of God who raised him from the dead, and the renewing communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24



This is the day the LORD has made; let us re-joice and be glad in it.



¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

² Let Israel | now declare,
“God's mercy en- | dures forever.”

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:
“The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord | is exalted!
The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!”

**17 I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the Lord. R**

18 The Lord indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

**19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.**

20 “This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

**21 I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation. R**

22 The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

**23 By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

24 This is the day that the | Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it. **R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

SERMON

Pr. Elizabeth Palmer

The assembly is invited to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Day of Resurrection

ELW 361, v. 1-3

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

PM: Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain, especially those on our prayer list and those we name either silently or aloud (*pause*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

PM: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

All: Amen.

PEACE

PM: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered and the Table is set.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come Away to the Skies

**Kentucky Harmony; text by
Charles Wesley, arr. Kurt Westerberg**

Liana German & Anne Humphrey (sopranos)

Nicholas Marotta, Rachel Wind (altos)

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

All: Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

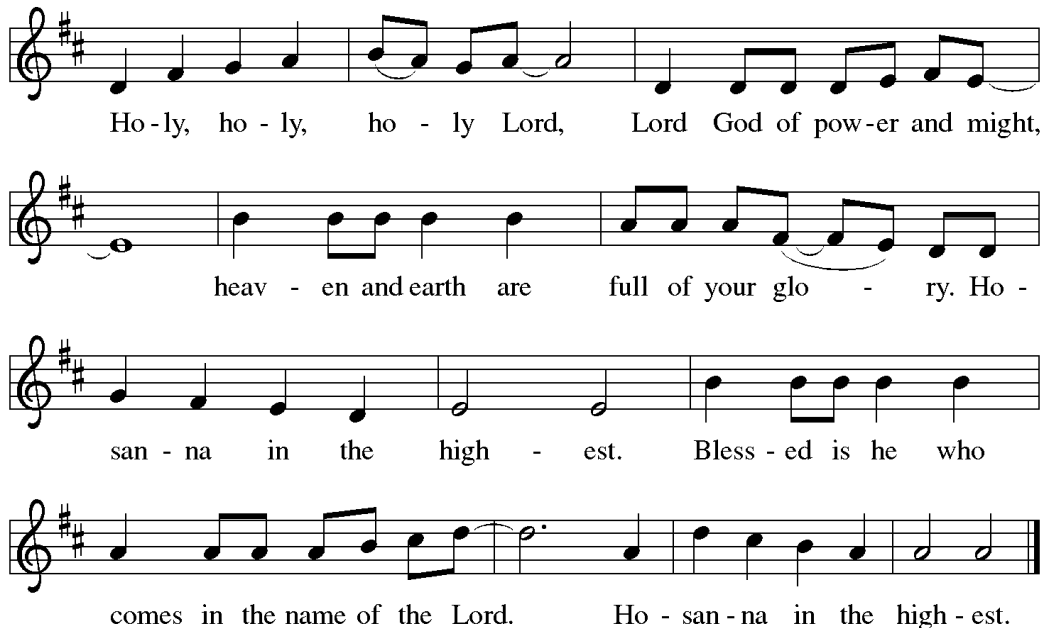
All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

All: **We praise you, O God.**

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

All: **We bless you, O God.**

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

All: **We thank you, O God.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available.

You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.

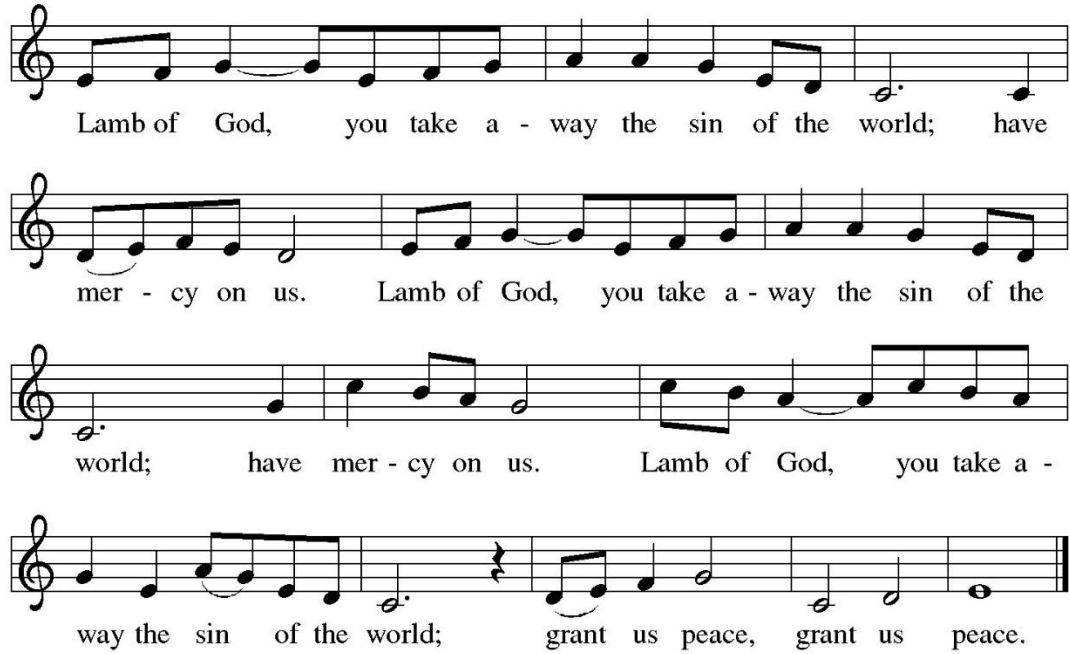
Move to the side eat and drink.

Place your empty cup in the tray provided.

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW 391

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW 364

Come and Fill Our Hearts

ELW 528

The assembly is invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through your healing to all the earth. In Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

All: Amen.

SENDING

The assembly is invited to be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

ELW 548

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

The following people have made a donation for the Easter
flowers that enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary:

Given in memory of

Bill & Mickey Wynne and Bob & June Foster by the Wynne/Foster Family

Norma Croft by John Croft

Ralph Starenko by Marilyn Starenko

Frank Nagatani by Linda Nagatani

Linda Dunn by the Kelly and Dunn Families

Phil Hiller by Barb Hiller

In loving memory of my parents & children Jim & Dorothy Kehm & Jimmy & Heather Battle by Janis
Battle

Rev. Dr. James P. Wind by the Wind/Holmes Family

Loved ones by Debbie Nelson

Mary & Pete Kruse and David Fettiplace by Michele Kruse

June Foster by Melissa Foster

Given in celebration of

Mel, Joan & Linda Mues by Diane Mues

Our upcoming wedding by LuAnne Origer

Given to the Glory of God by

Joan Brandt

Joan Ehrenberg

Melissa Gauger

Hanson Family

Kristine Westerberg

Williamson Family

Other

To US Troops in Harm's Way and to Matt Reese, recovering from a stroke, from Diane DiFrancesco

THANK YOU

- To our musicians: Liana German & Anne Humphrey (sopranos), Nicholas Marotta & Rachel Wind (altos), Stefan Westerberg (cello), Diane Mues (viola) and Zelma O'Reilly (trumpet).
- To the Altar Guild, especially Mary Williamson and Jen Buehn, for their loving work in preparation for worship at St Paul's, especially during Lent and Holy week. Thanks, too, to Diane DiFrancesco and Mark Pinguey, for oiling our altar and doors.
- To our Holy week worship leaders: Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Readers, Musicians, Streamers, and Ushers.
- To everyone who contributed to coffee fellowship, especially Mary Williamson, LuAnne Origer, Michele Kruse, Melissa Wynne, Linda Nagatani, David Foster, and Amanda & Jim Kelly.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Jan Rock, as she recovers from stenoses
- For Paul Lucci, friend of LuAnne Origer, recovering from thyroid cancer surgery.
- For the family of Joan Brandt, as they mourn the death of her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Ellie and John Grant.
- For Bill Kastilahn, as he recovers from eye problems due to medication.



To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle payments and look for "office@stpaulvanston.org."



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

PR. ELIZABETH

We were delighted to have had our good friend, Rev. Elizabeth Palmer, as our Pastoral Fellow during Lent. Pr. Elizabeth has led us many times over the years, most recently last year as our February Pastoral Fellow. We were grateful to have her return again to St. Paul's, this year for the entirety of the Lent through Holy Week season. Pr. Elizabeth is currently senior editor at the *Christian Century* magazine. Prior to that call, she served as the Lutheran Campus Pastor at the University of Chicago for eight years. She has also worked as a hospital chaplain. She holds a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School and is the author of *Faith in a Hidden God: Luther, Kierkegaard, and the Binding of Isaac* (Fortress Press).

Pr. Elizabeth lives in Skokie with her husband Liam, their 15-year-old daughter Anna, and their 11-year-old daughter Miriam.