

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | GRADUATION SUNDAY
MAY 10, 2026



ST. PAUL'S
Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME

Welcome! We are glad you are joining our community of faith for worship today. Whether you are a long-time Lutheran, or you come from another Christian tradition, or you're wandering or wondering about faith and the church, you are welcome to participate in worship in whatever ways are comfortable for you. If you are new to St. Paul's you can request more information on our web site contact page here:
www.stpaulsbrenham.org/contact

Our worship liturgy is rooted in the ancient church's practice of gathering on Sundays to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through hearing God's Word and sharing the communion meal in the presence of Christ. We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you.

This bulletin is a helpful guide to our worship liturgy, as are ushers and friendly people gathered here with you to worship God together.

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Michael Coffey	Lead Pastor
Donna Krueger	Pastor of Care Ministry
Diane Garrett	Organist
Larry Smith	Choir Director
Dr. Sarah Burke	Director of Contemporary Music
Lisa Eben	Financial Director
Thomas Johnson	Communications Coordinator
Anne Briggs	Membership Coordinator
Sarah Zwahr	Director of Youth and Family
Julie Guiberteau	Media Technician
Kay Domel	Christian Day School Director

CONTACT US

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*St. Paul's is a congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Learn more at www.elca.org*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Congratulations to our 2026 high school graduates:

Kylie Baker	Brinley Benson
Stevie Donnell	Grasyn Hinze
Gillian Kocian	Brynn Koehne
Thomas Loesch	Jase Mueller
Kolbie Parker	Shea Sladec

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Altar flowers are placed by Janie and Tiny Mehrens to the glory of God in loving memory of our daughter, Stacie Ann Mehrens, and our mothers, Edith Mehrens and Alice Marie Holle.

OFFERING

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex. Feel free to leave your offering there. The offering will be presented during the worship liturgy. You can also make an offering online at www.stpaulsbrenham.org/give

FIRST AID

A First Aid Kit and AED (defibrillator) are located in the closet of the usher room in the Narthex.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

At the Lamb's High Feast Robert Powell

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image
and placed us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We thank you, God of grace.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the baptismal waters in this font, and for all water everywhere.

We praise you, God of grace.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

We honor you, God of grace. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW 392 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe,
and I will tell you what God has ¹ done for me.
¹⁷ **I called out to God ¹ with my mouth,
and praised the Lord ¹ with my tongue.**
¹⁸ If I had cherished evil ¹ in my heart,
the Lord would ¹ not have heard me;
¹⁹ **but in truth ¹ God has heard me
and has attended to the sound ¹ of my prayer.**
²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not reject- ¹ ed my prayer,
nor withheld un- ¹ failing love from me. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to

bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174 Celtic Alleluia

The assembly sings the Alleluia. The cantor sings the Gospel verse and the assembly repeats the Alleluia.

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

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

Cantor: Those who love me will keep my word, and my Fa- | ther will love them,
and we will come to them and make our | home with them. (John 14:23)*

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Donna Krueger

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 781 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ. After the Peace, please be seated.

GRADUATION MILESTONE AND AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

*The congregation responds: **We will and we ask God to help and guide us.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offering plates are on the welcome table in the narthex before and after the service.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Christ Is Alive: II Jonathan Reuss

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW 674 stanzas 1, 2 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

OFFERING PRAYER

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, Amen.

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

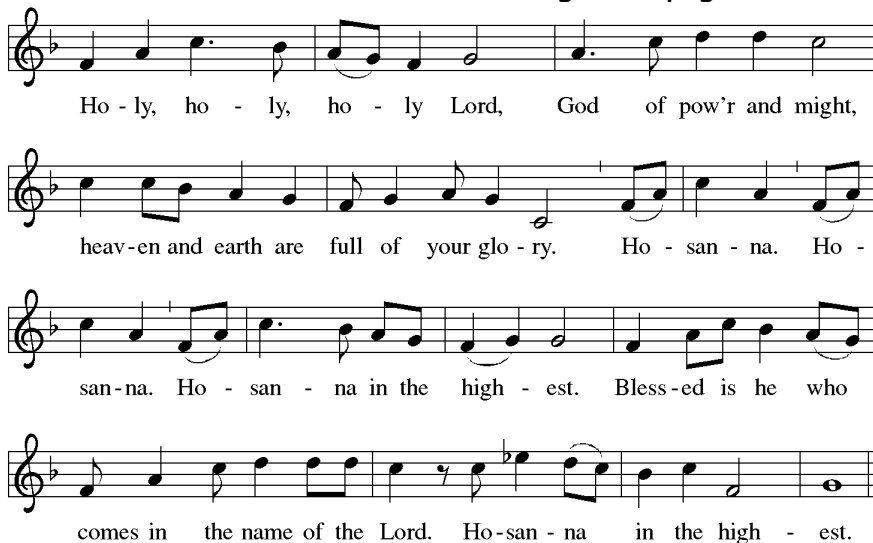
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting Three page 144

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens
and the earth.

We praise you.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family
through the waters of the flood, for freeing
your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We bless you.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living
among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.

We thank you.

In the night in which he was betrayed...
Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death
and glorious resurrection, we await your
promised life for all this dying world.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and
cup: carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

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.

INVITATION

We welcome all baptized Christians to receive communion. Children who are communing in other churches are invited to commune here. All who are not receiving are invited to come forward for a blessing—you may indicate you want a blessing by holding your hands together or crossing your arms in front of you. Please follow the guidance from the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are available on request.

Wine is red; grape juice is white. Those unable to come forward, remain seated and communion will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting Three page 146

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

MUSIC

SONG

Largo Jean Baptiste Loeillet
ELW 474 *Bread of Life from Heaven*

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

May the presence of the risen Christ in this meal increase your faith and empower your service to neighbors everywhere.

Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW 674 stanza 3 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*
Stanza 3 is on page 7 of this bulletin.

SENDING

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 856 *How Great Thou Art*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends Michael Burkhardt

GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Perspective of Love

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.

COMMEMORATIONS

Matthias, Apostle

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.