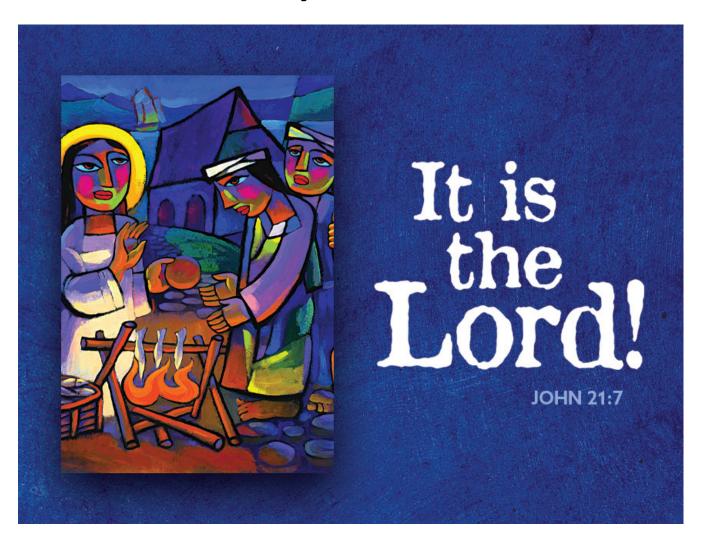
# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here.

#### 🥿 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

#### You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward. Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

#### **Altar Flowers**

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Dick & Robin Cordes in memory of Dora & Joe Chercony.

#### Introduction

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

#### **Readings and Psalm**

#### Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching.

#### **Psalm 30**

You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)

#### Revelation 5:11-14

The song of the living creatures to the Lamb.

#### John 21:1-19

Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

### In our prayers today we will remember

Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Jay Danielson, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Rachel Berkey, Michael Jordan, and Bobbee DeGordon.

.

# **Today's Hymns from the Tower**

Prelude:

In Christ Alone

Church Carillon arr. Sharon Wilson

Carol Butler, cello; Heidi Hall, violin

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save: Till on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied –

For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain: Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me, For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand: Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

#### make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.** 

#### **GATHERING HYMN**

You Servants of God

ELW 825

#### GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

#### Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### **First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

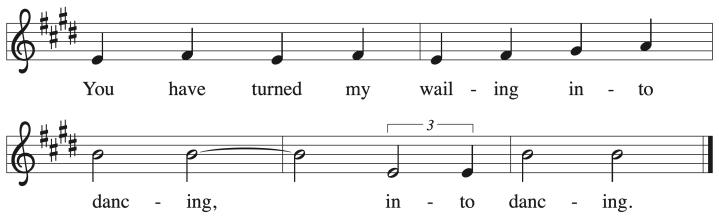
<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm: Psalm 30



- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.
- <sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried | out to you, and you restored | me to health.
- <sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful; give thanks in ho-| ly remembrance. R
- <sup>5</sup> God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.
  Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> While I felt se- | cure, I said,
  - "I shall never | be disturbed.
- <sup>7</sup> You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.
- <sup>8</sup> I cried to | you, O LORD;
  - I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,
- <sup>9</sup> "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit? Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?
- 10 Hear, O LORD, and have mer- cy upon me; O LORD, be my helper." R

- <sup>11</sup> You have turned my wailing | into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.
- 12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever. R

#### **Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

#### **Gospel: John 21:1-19**

The Gospel according to John, the 21st chapter Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever

you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

The Gospel of our Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

SERMON Rev. Mark Kreemer

**HYMN OF THE DAY** The Church of Christ, in Every Age ELW 729

#### 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.

<sup>\*</sup>Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition the following response is given:* 

Hear us, O God

#### Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

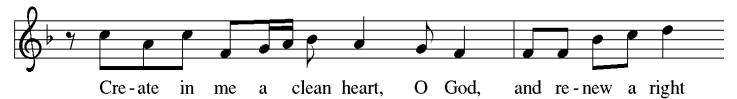
And also with you.

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

I Believe

Mark A. Miller (b. 1958)

The text for today's anthem is excerpted from words found in the cell of a Holocaust survivor. I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I believe in love, even when I don't feel it. I believe in God, even when God is silent.





spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re-store to me the joy of

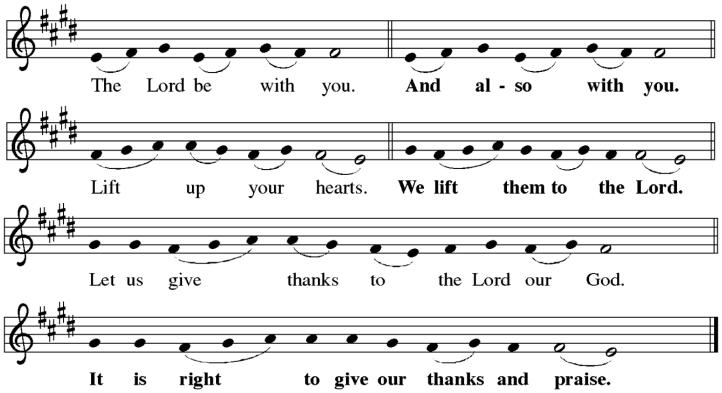


#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

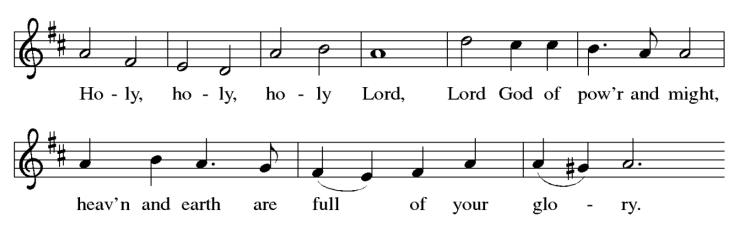
#### Let us pray.

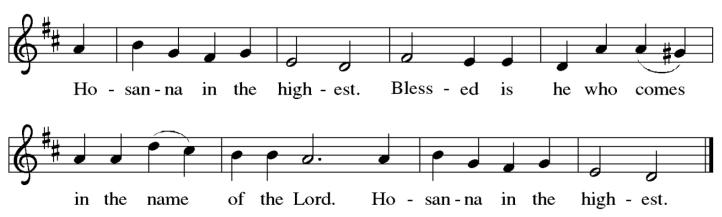
Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.** 

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### 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 to Communion**

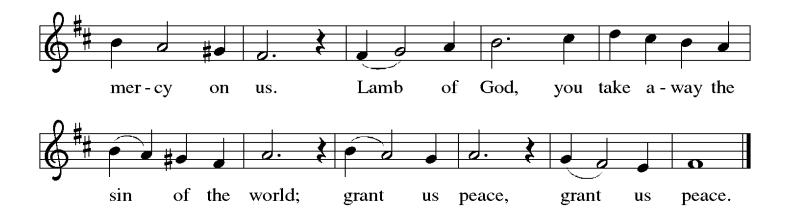
Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.



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



#### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Music during communion is provided by Carol Butler and Heidi Hall

#### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus ELW 392

#### **BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and

always. Amen.

#### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Chromatic Fugue Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

# **Bell Choir**

The Bell Choir will rehearse April 30, May 7, & May 14 in preparation to play on May 18. Please let Abby know if you plan to ring so that she can have music prepared for you.

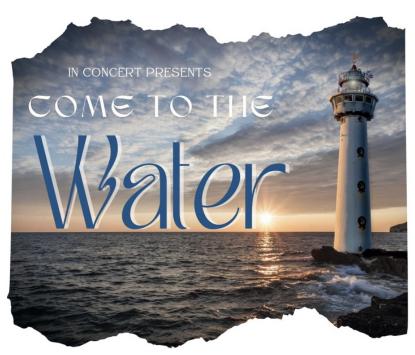
# Annual Meeting, May 18, 2025

Immediately following worship, we will process outdoors for the groundbreaking for our Eastside Entrance, Drive and Bathrooms. After the groundbreaking we will meet in the Followship Hall for refreshments and our meeting. At the meeting we will electing new Council members and approve the 2025-26 budget.

Cathedral Concert: Saturday, May 17, 2025, 2:00 pm



CANTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CHORUS

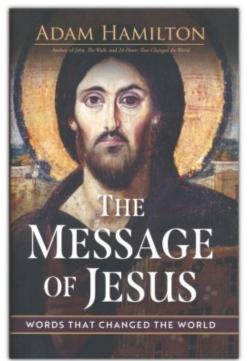


# **Adult Sunday School Class**

Joseph and God's Grace

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good..." (Genesis 50:20a)

Joseph, favorite son of Jacob, lived a life of challenges and privilege. By God's redeeming grace, Joseph was used to support and protect the people of God's covenant and was a righteous leader in the land of Egypt. During May, we will conclude our study in the book of Genesis and once again be reminded that grace abounds for God's glory and our lasting good. The class meets on Sundays at 11:30, top floor Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



# **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World

By: Adam Hamilton

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather the reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

# **Capital Campaign Report**

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	\$396,278
Funds raised	\$382,538
Remaining funds	\$ 13,740
to be raised	

# **Impact Massillon**

June 14, 2025. See Scott Larson if interested in helping out. \$15 for the T-shirt.

# **Forty Days of Giving**

The goal had been to have enough to sponsor one well system. But through the folders, the bake sale, and donations, the total was over \$5000, enough for two wells!

# **Flower Field Trip**

Join Becky Johnson and many others on Tuesday, May 3, at 9 am, for a trip to Fredericksburg in Wayne County for a flower shopping trip. Bring a sack lunch.

# **New Assisted Hearing Devices Available**

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi:

**Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

Once connected to the Wi-Fi, open the WaveCAST app and tap on **St. Paul's** to access the worship service. If you need help, please see Jim or John.

# **Download the St. Paul's Phone APP**

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.

# **Community Social Media Pages**

Facebook & Instagram, Search "Massillon Lutheran Churches"

#### **Facebook**

"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon" or "Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"

# Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

Assisting Minister David Stoner

Lector Karl Kalk

Greeter Gary Collard

Communion Assistants Patty Long & Gary Collard

Sacristan Kathryn Myers

Ushers John Liebermann, Lynn Williamson

John & Jennifer Stanko

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923** Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

GATHERING HYMN You Servants of God ELW 825

Public Domain

**HYMN OF THE DAY** The Church of Christ, In Every Age ELW 729 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

SENDING HYMN: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus ELW 392

Public Domain



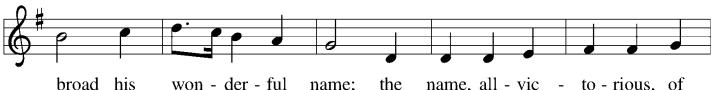
# Do You Love Me? Follow Me

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in a blinding light on the road, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things—bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness—to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process—a change that comes again and again, like Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. For Saul, the journey doesn't end with the blinding light on the road. For Peter, the journey doesn't end with breakfast on the beach. Conversion sets each of them, and each of us, on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth—and leads into life eternal.

### You Servants of God



- 1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
- 2 As cend ed on high, al might y to save, yet still he is
- 3 Sal va tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
- 4 Then let us a dore and give him his right, all glo ry and



to - rious, of broad his won - der - ful the name, all - vic name; nigh, his have. The great con - gre ga - tion his pres - ence we Son. The Je - sus the loud and hon - or the prais - es of pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or bless-ing, with and



glo-rious and king - dom is his rules o - ver Je - sus ex - tol; all! tri-umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king! an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, wor-ship the Lamb. and a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas-ing, and an - gels in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

# The Church of Christ, in Every Age



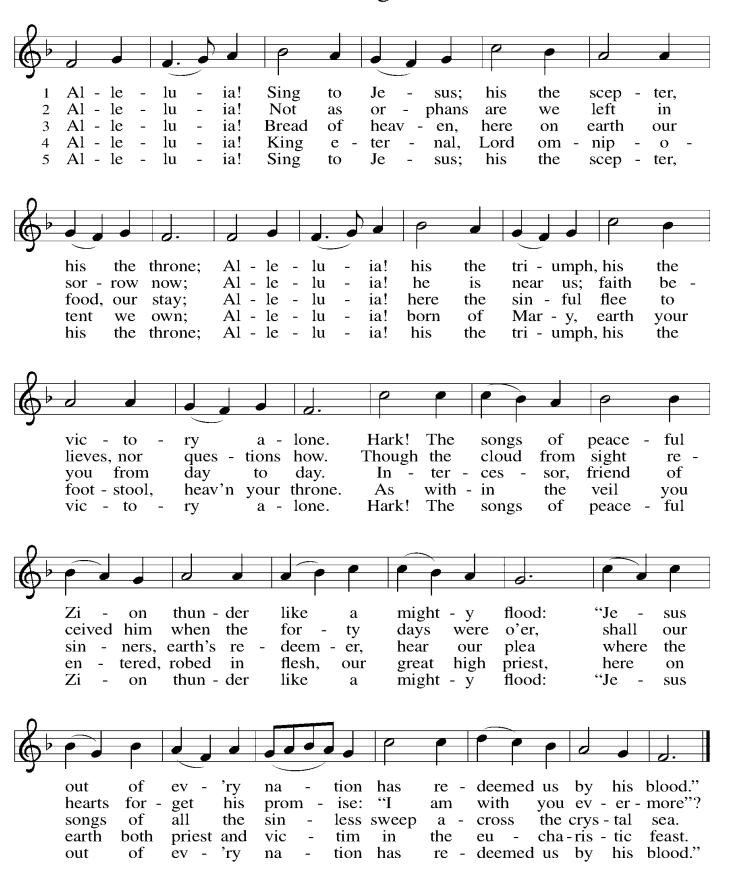
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768

Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

# Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887