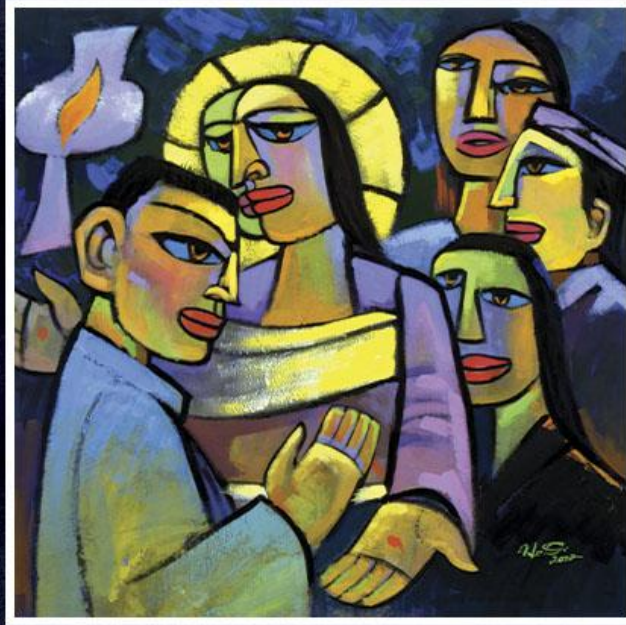


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 12th, 2025

**DO NOT
DOUBT
BUT
BELIEVE**

JOHN 20:27



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 Scott & Darlene Lewis in honor of their 43rd anniversary.

Introduction

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

1 Peter 1:3-9

New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

Today's Hymns from the Tower

Church Carillon

Prelude: No. 3 in C Major: I. Prélude, BWV 1009- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Karlis Graufelds, viola

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!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

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.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

With High Delight Let Us Unite

ELW 368

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of

his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 16



In your pres - ence there is full - ness of joy.

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,**

upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.

³ But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,**
never take their names up- | on my lips. R

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;**
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;**
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. R

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,**
nor let your holy one | see the pit.

¹¹ You will show me the | path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for- | evermore. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk by Faith

Bulletin pg. 17

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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each petition the following response is given:

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 Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY Suite No. 3 in C Major: II. Allemande, BWV 1009- Bach
Mr. Graufelds, viola

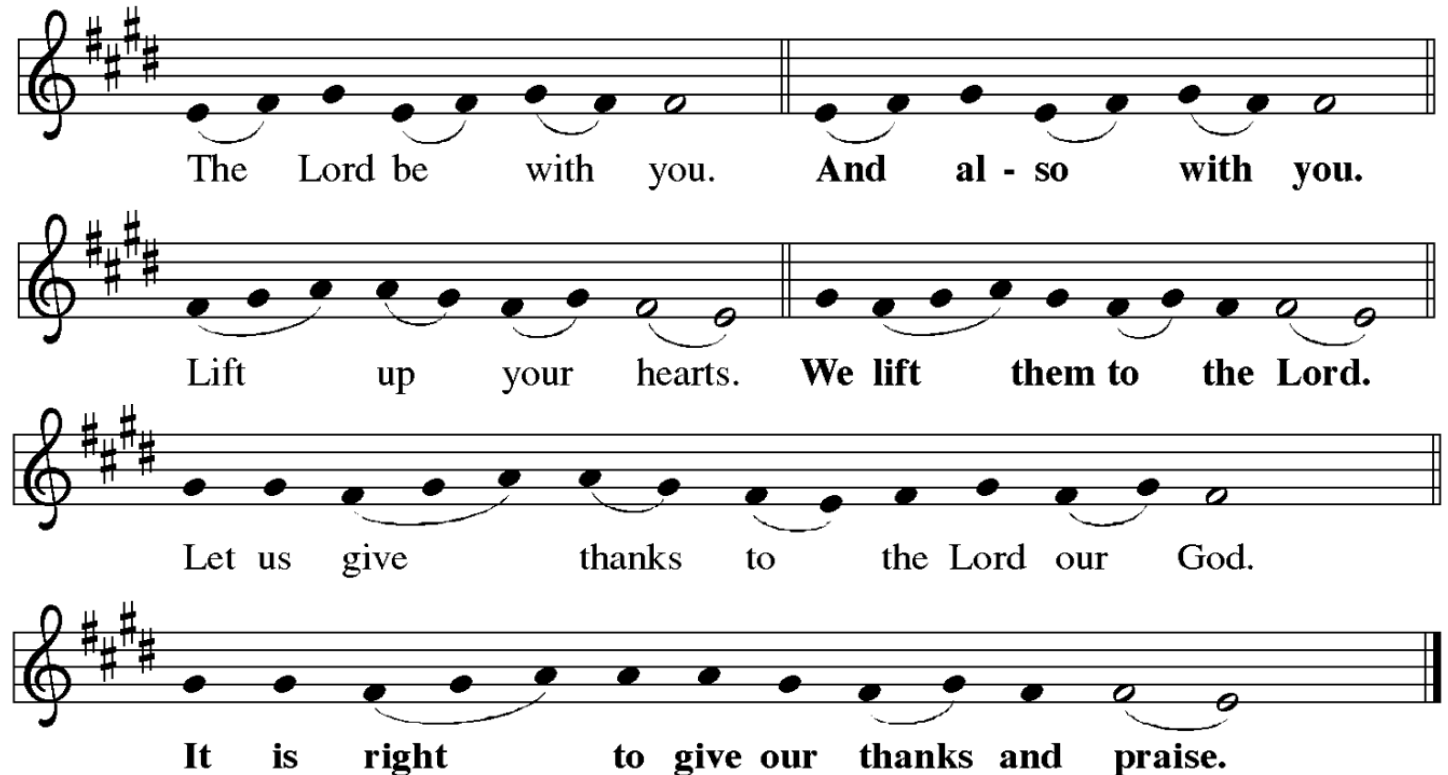
OFFERING PRAYER

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,

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



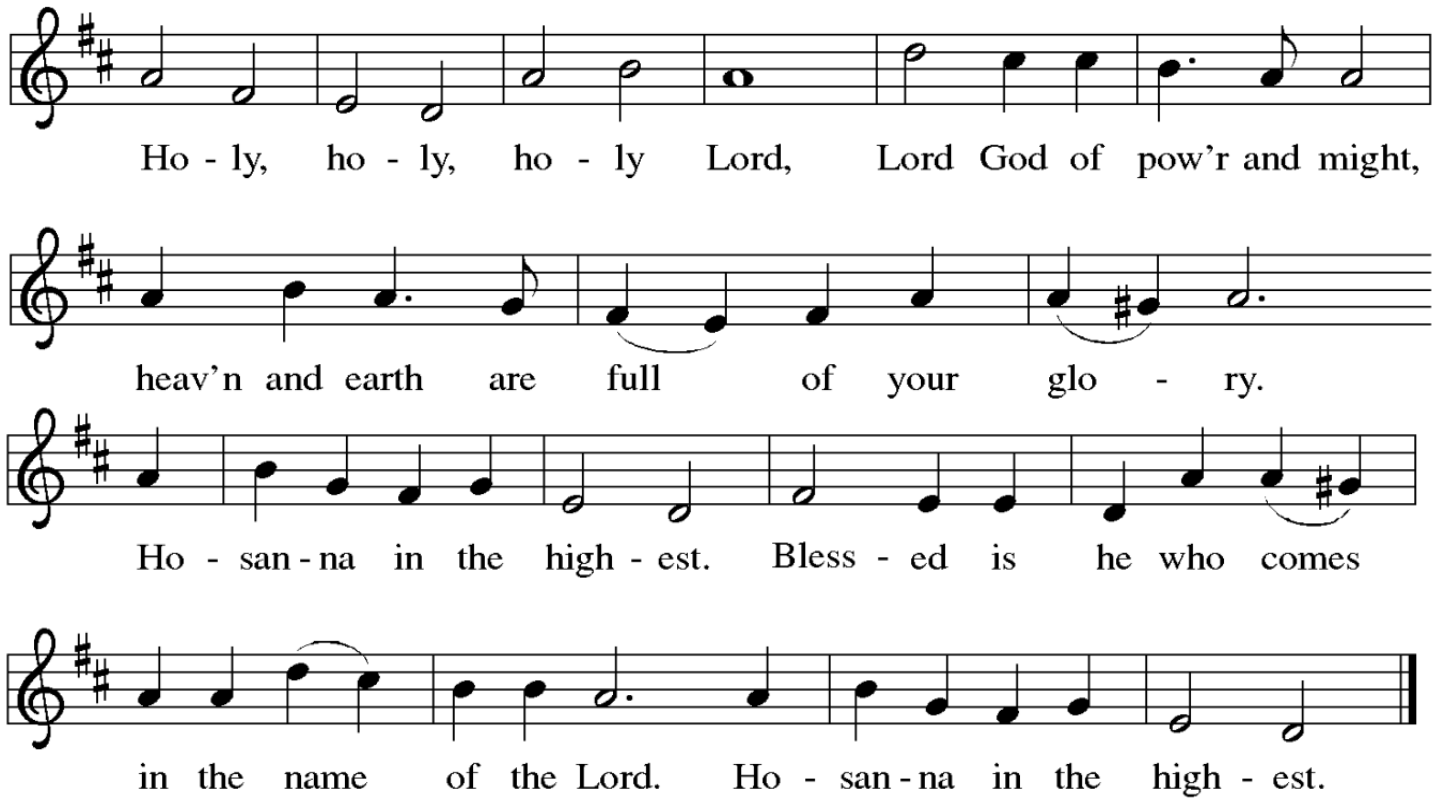
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 new life.
 Receive the risen Lord.

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 Sonata in f minor, Op. 120, No. 1: II. Andante un poco adagio-
 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
 Mr. Graufelds, viola

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.

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,
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: The Day of Resurrection ELW 361

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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Ceremonial March Raymond D. Haan (b. 1938)

In our prayers today we will remember

Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Cindy Lash, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily. Troy, Carol, Lynnette, & Mark

Adult Sunday School

The Book of Ruth

"...Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead." (Ruth 2:20)

During April we continue our study in the book of Ruth and notice the way God uses the kindness and care of others to show the Lord's character and reveal God's ultimate purpose of redemption through Jesus Christ. The faithfulness and compassion of these in the story inspire us to demonstrate the same. The class meets on the **top floor of the Parish Hall at 11:30 each Sunday morning**. An elevator is available for easy access.

Bell Rehearsal

The bells will rehearse at **6:00 PM on April 29, May 6, and May 13** in preparation to ring on **May 17**.

Rehearsals for the St. Paul's Steelband

The St. Paul's Steelband will be rehearsing on **Wednesdays from 6-7PM**. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eleanor or catch her after service. There's no need to bring anything for the first rehearsal. For those of you that just want to watch and listen, you are free to stay for as long as you like. We can't wait to get started making music together! For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

**On Bell Rehearsal Weeks, we will meet Sundays from 1:00-2:00 pm*

Cathedral Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm
The Canton Symphony Chorus
“A Program dedicated to Mothers”



Spring Fling Dinner Dance April 18th

We will gather for dinner at 5:00 pm followed by music with Chuck Richards. The cost per person is \$15 per person which you can pay at the door.

We do need you to make a reservation. Sign up is in the lounge or you can call/Email the church office:

330.832.7409

Officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org



Game Night-May 17th

Join us in the lounge at 5:00 pm for a fun night of games and fellowship.

Bring your favorite board or card game(s), beverage, and an appetizer to share. Bingo for prizes will also be available.

This event is for all ages – adults, children, and adults who act like children. Don't miss out on the fun!

Scholarship Committee Announcement

New applicants can request an application starting **April 1st, 2026** by emailing the church office officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org for the application.

DEADLINE to be considered for the scholarship is **June 1st, 2026**. Scholarship recipients will then be voted upon by the Scholarship Committee.

Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God’s house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

- **Parish Hall Window Wells Repair** – Estimated cost: \$169,000
Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.
- **Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall)** –
Estimated cost: \$150,000
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.
- **Organ Maintenance and Restoration** – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

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.



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

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"*

Keep up to date by visiting our website

StPaulsMassillon.org

You'll find everything you need to know about our past, present, and future events.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Veronica Kreemer
Lector	Larry & Kim Oberlin
Greeters	Gary Collard
Communion Assistants	Dennis Morgan & Kathryn Myers
Sacristan	Kathryn Myers
Ushers	Greg & Lynda Klein John & Thomas Haake
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN With High Delight Let Us Unite ELW 368

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HYMN OF THE DAY We Walk by Faith Bulletin pg. 17

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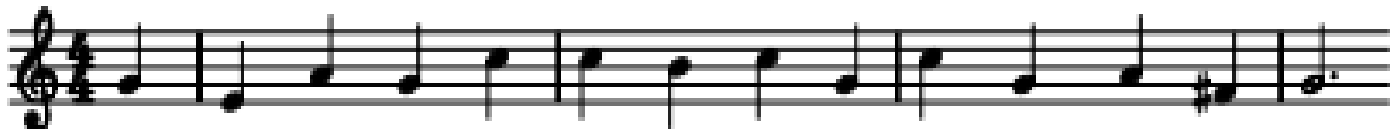
SENDING HYMN: The Day of Resurrection ELW 361

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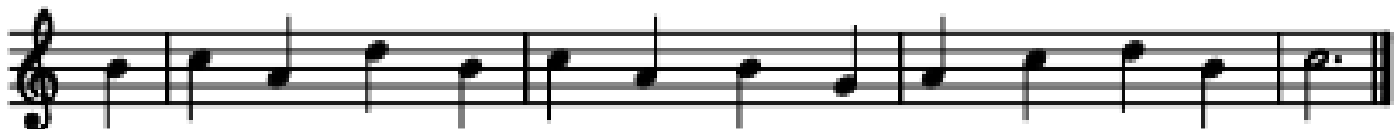
HYMN OF THE DAY

WE WALK BY FAITH

ST. ANNE



- 1, 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gra-cious words we hear
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor fol - low where he trod;
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, And may our faith a-bound;
4. That when our life of faith is done In realms of clear - er light



- 1, 5. Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve him near.
2. Yet in his prom-ise we re - joice And cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. To call on you when you are near, And seek where you are found:
4. We may be - hold you as you are In full and end-less sight.

Text: CM; Henry Alford, alt., 1810–1871. Music: attr. to William Croft, 1678–1727.

With High Delight Let Us Unite

ELW 368



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.
Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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The Day of Resurrection!

ELW 361



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833