



I am
the vine,
you are the
branches

JOHN 15:5

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith
Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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Welcome to all – especially visitors.

It is no accident that you are here today!

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Large print and children's bulletins are available
in the Narthex or from an usher.*

Holy Communion: All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to walk up to the altar to receive communion, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

The prefilled glasses are grape juice.

*Please remember to write any prayer requests for today
in the prayer book in the Narthex.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME

PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation stands as is comfortable and faces the baptismal font at the invitation of the presiding minister.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Brothers and sisters, on this day when we celebrate the rising of Christ from death, let us gather at the water to celebrate our baptism, which is the sign and seal of our new life in Christ.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,

C: you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

P: In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

C: In the waters of baptism our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

P: Glory to you, O God, for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

C: Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

P: Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,

the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: Through these waters, wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #342 "There in God's Garden" (Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 6)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ⓐ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



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



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



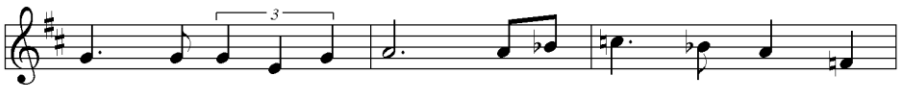
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ 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.

C Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
II 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.
C Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 22:25-31 *(read responsively)*

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does
not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was
revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved
God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice
for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to
love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one
another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he
has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the
Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in
those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in
God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God
abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we
may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are
we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out
fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not
reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved
us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,
are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they
have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The
commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must
love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

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

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout

Please stand as you are comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

NICENE CREED

A: Together let us profess the faith of the Church.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters and all creatures that inhabit them. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, and for elected officials at every level. We pray for free and fair elections throughout the world, and

for international organizations which promote peace and provide for immigrants, refugees and those displaced by war or violence.

God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, the imprisoned and those on parole, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially Cindy, Kody, Jay, Bill, Elizabeth, Dottie, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Marge, Jerry, Terrie, Naoma, Boden, Andy D., Andrea G., and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With thanksgiving we remember the saints who lived in the faith and now rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples. And at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Merciful God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, for the sake of your crucified and risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with our neighbors, then remain standing as you are comfortable.

OFFERTORY HYMN



☪ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Gracious God, as we celebrate the power of the resurrection, receive these offerings and gifts that we give joyfully and generously. By the power of your Spirit, multiply them and use them to bring peace, justice, hope and the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, holy Father, through Christ our Savior. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. And so, 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, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

(continued next page)

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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Send, now your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood. Draw us together as the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your saints into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Jesus Christ, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, grants everyone a place at the welcome table. Come to the feast.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

As the table is prepared the congregation sings:

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.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive communion at the direction of the ushers, organ side first, and return by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #481 "Come to the Table"

When all have communed, please stand as you are comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

C: Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

C: Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, ✚ refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #881 "Let All Things Now Living"

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Bear fruit in the world.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Please place your offering in the collection plates near the doors.

St. Paul's members are invited to the installation of the Rev. Jennifer Richards as pastor of St. Paul's, New Cumberland and Big Spring United, Newville. The service will be held on Sunday, May 5, 11:00 am at St. Paul's, 5th & Bridge Streets, New Cumberland, with a luncheon to follow. Please let Pastor Gwenn know if you plan to attend.

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**, we will have a potluck brunch following worship. Please sign-up in church to bring a dish (breakfast casserole, coffee cake, muffins, etc.) or contact Sherry Reynolds with what you will bring. Weather permitting, we will be outside. Also, we are reviving the "celebration of community life"! If you have any milestones (graduations, new jobs, new homes, new child/grandchild etc.) to report from this past year, contact Wendy or Pastor Gwenn (pastorgwenn@verizon.net). Don't forget to wear red!

Wine & Cheese Wednesdays is coming soon! If you have any topics that you'd like to discuss, or suggestions for speakers, please see Pastor Gwenn.

Faith Night at the Harrisburg Senators is Friday, June 21, at 7pm. Please sign up in church or through the Epistle to indicate your interest so we know if we qualify for discounted tickets. Contact Sherry Reynolds with any questions.



Scan the QR code with your phone (using the camera or download a QR reader app) to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations from your bank account, debit card, or credit card.

Q: Why is the paschal candle, which normally stands next to the baptismal font, next to the altar?

A: Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the paschal candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lighted for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter. (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day!) Ideally, the candle burns continuously from the Vigil of Easter through Pentecost.

Thank you to those assisting with worship:

Assisting Minister: Keith Gilbert

Lector: Wendy Cekovich

Ushers: Mike Stoner & Darrell McMillan

Counters: Nick Cekovich & Judy Cryder

Altar Guild: Sherry Reynolds

Musician: Denise Casella

Building Lock-up: Nick Cekovich

Technology: Nick Cekovich / Doug Bowers

	May 5	May 12	May 19 Pentecost	May 26 Holy Trinity	June 2
Asst. Min.	MaryJane	Denise C.	Steve C.	MaryJane M.	Nick C.
Lector	Denise C.	Denise C.	Emily B.	Steve H.	Wendy C.
Ushers	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Tim M. Mike P.	Drew K. Mike S.
Counters	Tim M. Steve C.	Tim M. Jan A.	Tim M. Steve C.	Tim M. Jan A.	Joan K. Trudy G.
Altar s/u	Keith G.	Tim M.	Amanda	Sherry R.	Deb S.
Altar c/u	MaryJane	Denise C.	Denise C.	Sherry R.	Deb S.
Lock-up	Tim M.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Tim M.	Joan K.
Musician	Denise C.	Deb R.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Denise C.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.				

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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