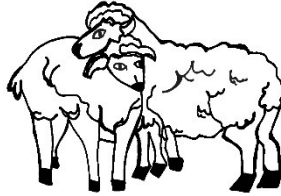


**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion
April 28, 2024**



Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
12095 Blades Road, PO Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625
Phone: 410-364-5147 – Email: info@stpaulscordova.org
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Reverend Jonathon Moyers-Minister of Word and Sacrament
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Meredith Lewis-Secretary
Cell: 443-496-0903 – Email: info@stpaulscordova.org

Vertrau Auf Gott!
[Trust in God]
Services are being live-streamed and recorded.

Announcements & Prelude

Gathering Hymn
#449

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Invocation

The assembly stands.

In the Name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Send forth, O God, your good grace, and sanctify our souls, bodies, and spirits; turn our thoughts to holiness, so that with pure conscience we may offer to you the sacrifice of praise; through the mercy and compassion of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your Holy and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Celebrant declares the Absolution.

Kyrie Eleison



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



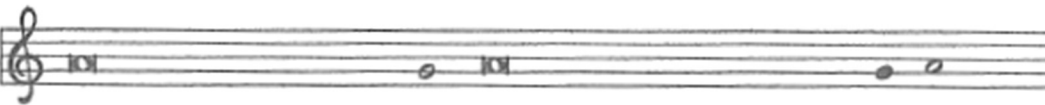
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



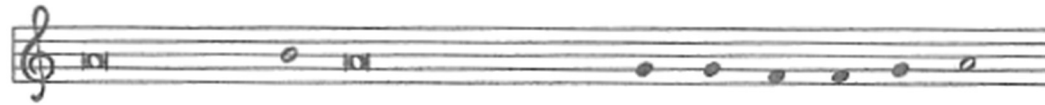
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

Canticle

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people
of God. This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn
of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb
forever, Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WORD

The assembly is seated.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

An 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus



My praise is of him in the great as-sembly; *I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow be-fore him.**

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

He rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall be-fore him.

My soul shall live for him;

My descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

**They shall come and make known to a people yet un-born *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

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

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

Sermon

Reverend Jonathon Moyers

Hymn of the Day

There in God’s Garden

#342

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

After each petition, (God of grace) the congregation responds: **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

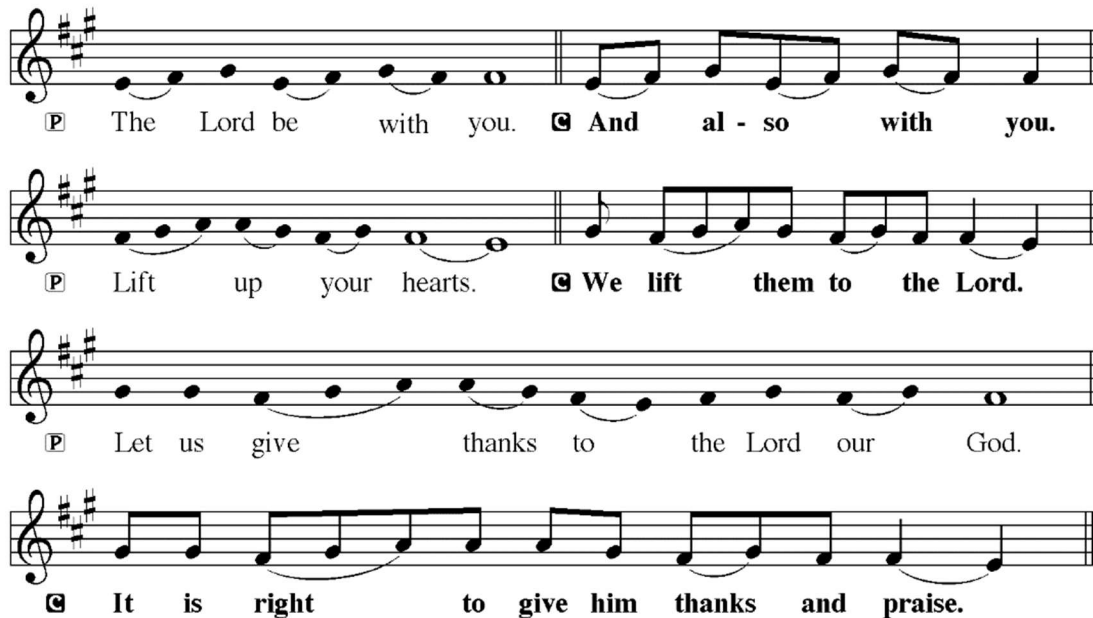
Choral Music

Prayer before Communion

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



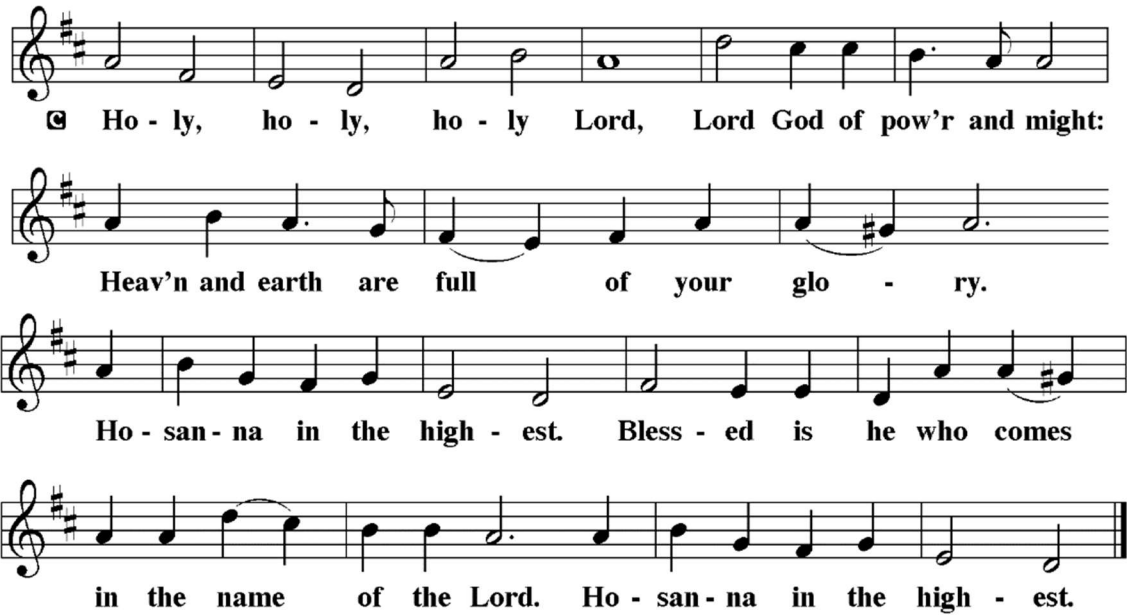
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, with cherubim and seraphim, 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share these holy mysteries, the mystical supper of the Lamb, that we may receive the true body and precious blood of your Son.

Fill us with your † Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, we may praise and glorify you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

The Agnus Dei



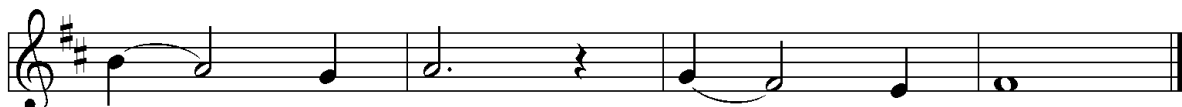
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. But only say the word and I shall be healed.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Prayer After Communion

May the True Body and Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the **†** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

#881

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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Paschal Song

Rev. Jonathon Moyers and Dave Nicholson will lead us through themes of Resurrection and Ascension as we hear the stories of the resurrection of Jesus, his appearance on the road to Emmaus, his strengthening of Thomas' faith, the giving of the Great Commission, and his Ascension into heaven. Join us on May 5 at 4 pm at Grace Lutheran.

Rogation Days – Farm and Garden Blessings

Pastor Moyers will be offering blessings for farms and gardens on the three Rogation Days of May 6, 7, and 8. These traditional blessings of farms are offered on the three days which precede Ascension Day. Anyone wishing to have a farm or garden blessed is invited to call the church office or be in touch with Pastor Moyers.

Youth Bowling

We will have our second Youth Bowling Day on Saturday, May 11 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at Easton Bowl, 101 Marlboro Avenue, Easton, MD. Open to youth of all ages, food and drink will be provided, join us!

Graduate Recognition

On Sunday, May 26 we will recognize our high school and college graduates during our church service with a reception following. The service will be a joint service with Grace and will begin at 9:30 am.

Service at Tuckahoe - Chesapeake Country Area Ministry will be joining together for a shared celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a picnic following on Sunday, June 2 at 11 am at the Cherry Pavilion at Tuckahoe State Park.

VBS--Camp Firelight—A Summer Camp Adventure with God will be held Monday, June 24 through Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 to 8 pm with a Closing Campfire and Family Night on Friday, June 28. On Sunday, June 30 we will have a Children's Worship Service at 8:45 am.