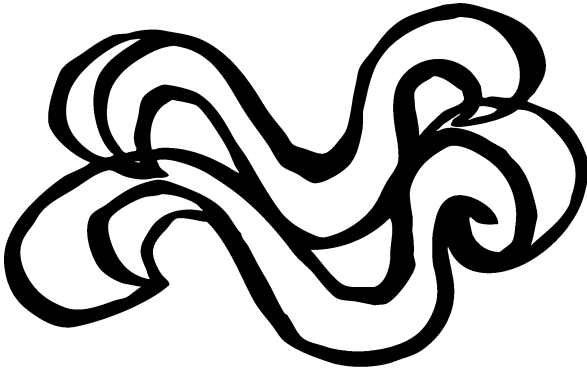


Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
Ardmore, Pennsylvania



Ascension of Our Lord
May 12, 2024
10:00 am

At St. Paul's, ALL are welcome:

As Lutherans we believe that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not something we earn but is freely given through God's love. That love is for all of us - created in God's image - and we respond by welcoming and including everyone, regardless of age, background, race, ethnicity, creed, socioeconomic class, marital status, physical or mental ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join with us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment. There is a place for you here.

Serving on Sunday, May 12

Pastor	The Rev. Laura M. Tancredi
Youth & Family Minister	The Rev. Timothy Ness
Music Director/Organist	Andrew K. Heller
Ushers	David Wilson, Jamie Koerner
Reader	Jim Van Horn
Acolyte	Noelle Streuber Eden
Communion Assistant	Claudia Muller
Coffee Hour	Christian Education Committee
Camera Crew	Jason Baxter
Altar Care	
Set up	Laura Bickert Ciarllo
Clean up	Belle and David Miller

Serving on Sunday, May 19

Pastor	The Rev. Laura M. Tancredi
Youth & Family Minister	The Rev. Timothy Ness
Music Director/Organist	Andrew K. Heller
Ushers	Diane Pringle, Barb Parman
Reader	Melissa Gale
Acolyte	Ryan Baxter
Communion Assistant	Kristen McGuire
Coffee Hour	Cemetery Committee
Camera Crew	Lauren Baxter
Altar Care	
Set up	Helene Roth
Clean up	Kristen and Anna McGuire

Gathering

Prelude

The Waters of Life

Francis Jackson

Announcements

(Congregation speaks the words in bold print.)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed
through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

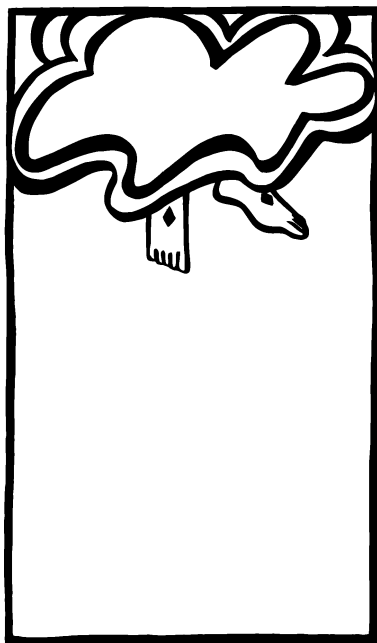
GATHERING HYMN #392

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

GREETING

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

And also with you.



HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Wiseman

First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

Reader/ A reading from Acts:

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my

witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

Reader/ A reading from Ephesians:

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

*Choir: Go and make disciples of all nations, / says the Lord;
I am with you always, to the end / of the age.
(Repeat Alleluia.)*

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they

worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Wiseman

HYMN OF THE DAY #389

Christ is Alive

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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

Each petition concludes with the following:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of our risen Savior be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

Meal

Offering

*Thank you for your generous support of our
ministry. To give online, follow the QR code to
stpaulsardmore.org/giving.*



Offertory Anthem
Adult Choir

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
Harold Friedell

OFFERTORY HYMN #380 (vs. 1)

*Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and to bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses to the world, through Jesus Christ,
our true vine. **Amen.**

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

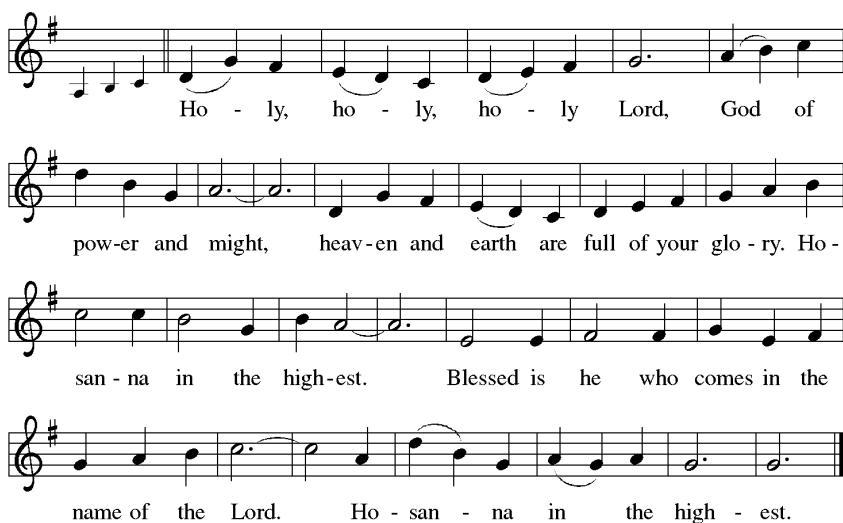
We lift them to the Lord.

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...*(Here the celebrant continues with the preface for the season, concluding)*...And with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

During the Great Thanksgiving, the congregation responds as follows:

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

...Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

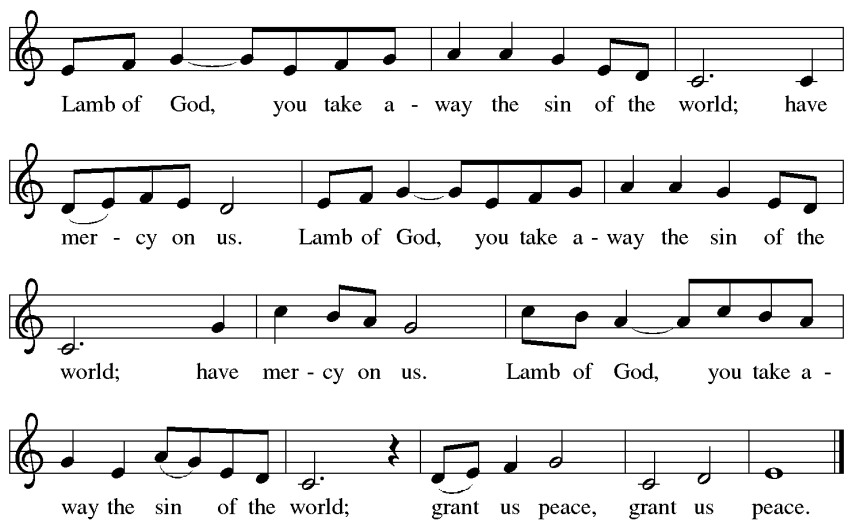
FRACTION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Communion

All the baptized are invited to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ. After receiving the bread at the center aisle, you may dip the bread into the intinction cup. Those who prefer may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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 Anthem
Children's Choir

Loving Spirit
Helen Kemp

TABLE BLESSING

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

COMMUNION PRAYER

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 in the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #855

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Voluntary in D Minor

Charles V. Stanford

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St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Stay Connected to St. Paul's Online:

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm