+The Divine Service+

The Fourth Sunday of Easter | May 11, 2025 | 8AM



Christ Jesus Is The Good Shepherd and Bishop of Our Souls

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

ST. PAUL is a liturgical, confessional congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 150 years, Christ's holy Word has been preached and his blessed Sacraments have been administered here. If this is your first time worshipping with us, welcome. We are delighted to have you join us. Please sign the guest registry in the narthex and introduce yourself to one of the pastors today. They would be happy to speak with you.

Holy Communion.

WE CONFESS the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. The Sacrament is offered to baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Christian faith, and who are members of our congregation or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If it has been over a year since the last time you communed, or if you are a visitor today, please speak to one of our pastors before receiving Holy Communion. Thank you.

Prayer Before Worship.

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

Ps. 26:8

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Ps. 84:10

O LORD, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.



The Divine Service

When the bells ring, please stand and face the cross.

Processional Hymn | 725 Children of the Heavenly Father

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



The Service of the Word

Psalm 23 (KJV) prayed together

C The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

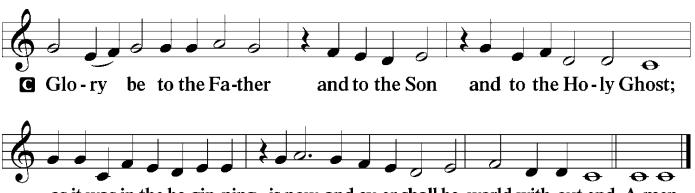
²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

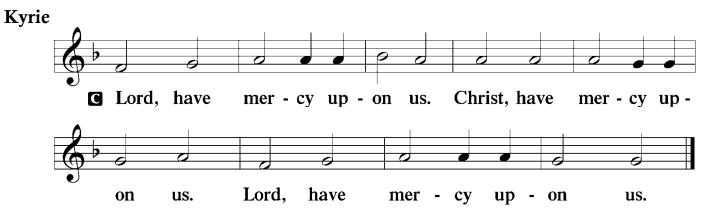
⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

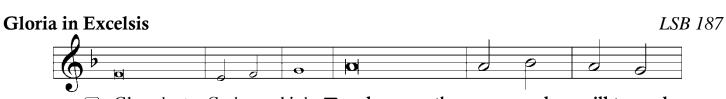
⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

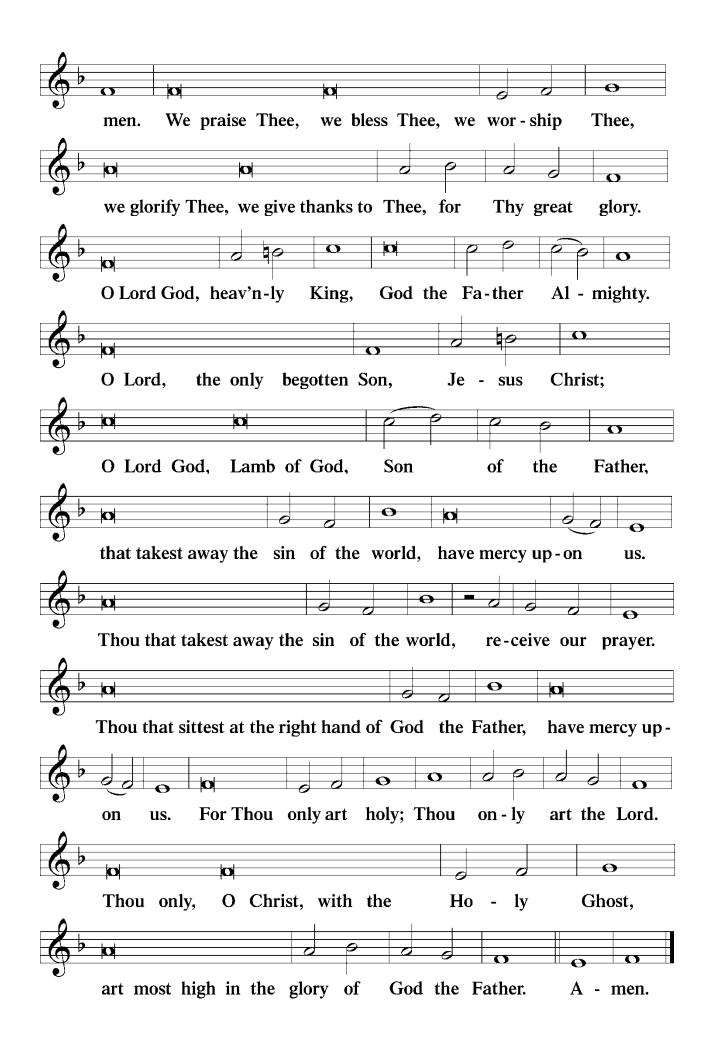


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.





P Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit
First Reading

Acts 20:17–35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for

three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

EpistleRevelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them,

nor any scorching heat.

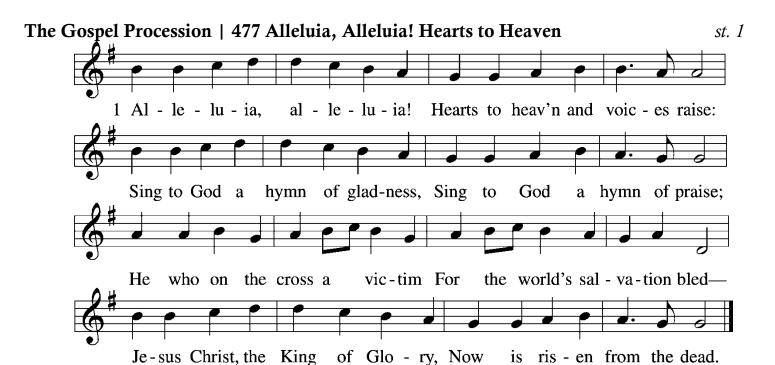
¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

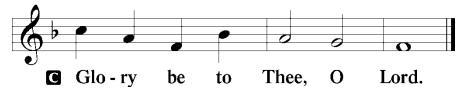
Face the cross as it enters the nave.





Holy Gospel John 10:22–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Hymn of the Day | 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The Sermon

The congregation rises for the Apostolic greeting:

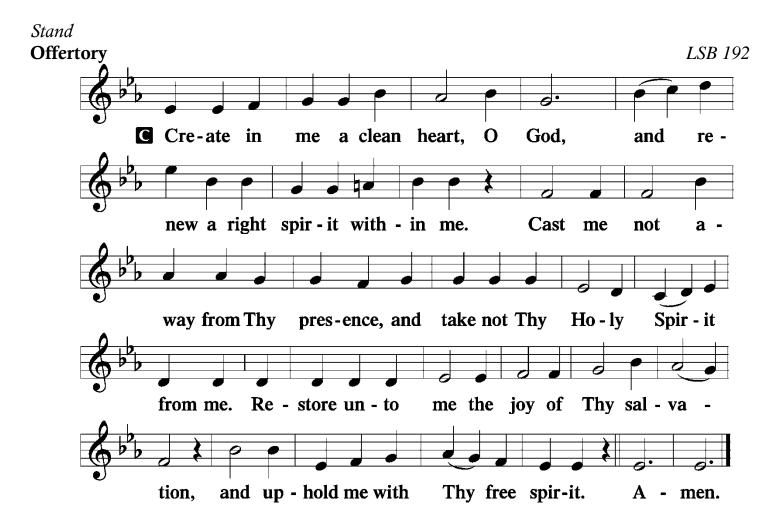
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

It is customary for the preacher to read a section of the text for meditation here:

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

At the end of the Sermon, the pastor invites the congregation to rise for the blessing:

- The peace of God which passes understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- C Amen.



Prayer of the Church

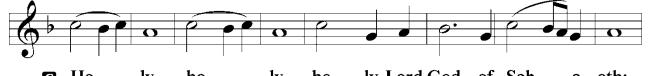
The Service of the Sacrament

Preface The Lord be with you. with \mathbf{C} And thy spir it. Lift hearts. up your We lift them Lord. the up un - to give thanks un - to the Lord, God. Let us It \Box is right do. and meet SO to

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

LSB 194





□ Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



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

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

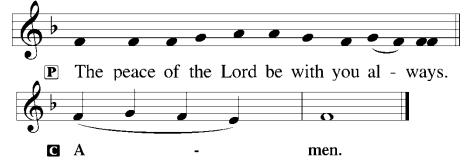
The Words of Our Lord

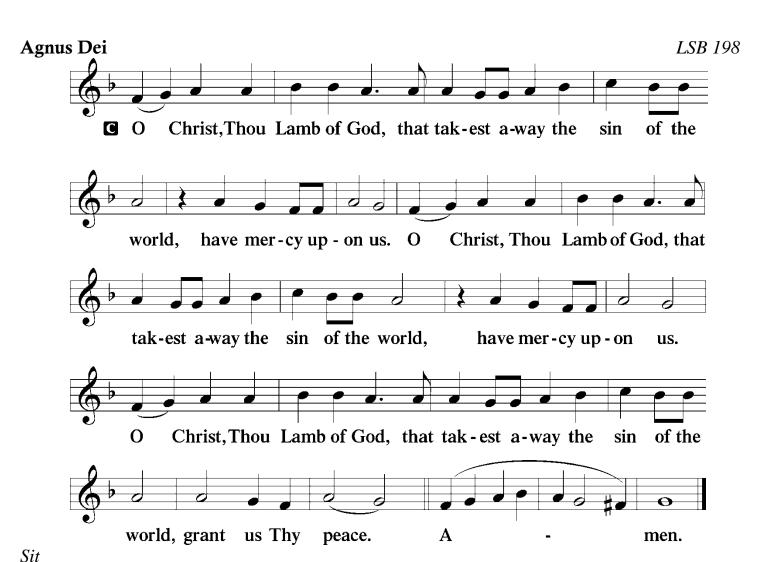
LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 197





Distribution

Holy Communion at St. Paul

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn | 710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want Distribution Hymn | 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us Distribution Hymn | 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

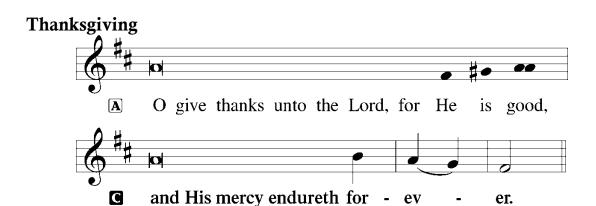
Stand

The Dismissal

P The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace.

C Amen.



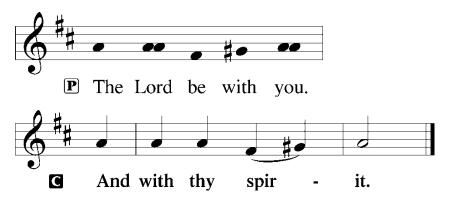


Post-Communion Collect

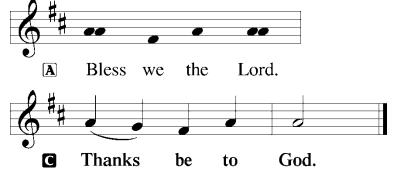
A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



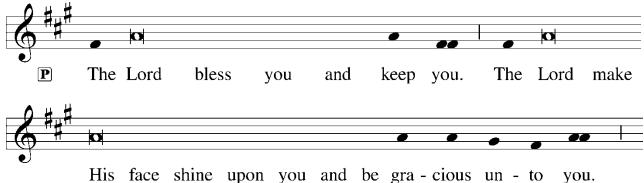
Salutation



Benedicamus LSB 202



Benediction LSB 202





The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and H give you peace.



Hymn to Depart | 713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



Good Shepherd Sunday and Mother's Day

A Meditation on the Word of God

The Good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep. This giving is not merely the giving of a fine moral example. It is more than the giving of his devotion and care. It is the giving up of his life as a sacrifice on the cross, to bear the griefs, sorrows, transgressions, and iniquities of us all. Isaiah the prophet said (we heard him say this on Good Friday): "All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, everyone, to his own way. And the LORD has laid on him (Jesus!) the iniquity of us all." There is a Good Friday hymn we sung which goes like this: "What punishment so strange is suffered yonder! The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander." All that the Good Shepherd does for us, his sheep, is centered in that supreme act of sacrificial love. How does Christ, our Good Shepherd, love us? By giving his life for us.

In that way, there is a fine connection between Good Shepherd Sunday and Mother's Day. We need to celebrate Mother's Day because the vocation of motherhood needs to be promoted and exalted. In our world, fewer and fewer people are marrying and having children. Motherhood is a despised vocation in the world and often put second (or third, or fourth!) in a list of priorities behind getting a good job and making lots of money. There is no higher calling for a woman than the calling to be wife and mother. The world has lost sight of this but in the Church, we get it. Now, there is a connection between Good Shepherd Sunday and motherhood.

No, Jesus is not a *mother*. God our Father is not a *mother*. It would be blasphemous to speak in such terms. But in the love of a mother for her child—in a mother's willingness to sacrifice her finances, her job security, her desire to relax and even get a good night's sleep so that her child's needs can be met—there is a reflection of the love that Christ has for us. He sacrificed his own life for ours. Such is the nature of Christ's love. In the vocation of father and the vocation of mother, we see a reflection of Christ's love. How? Christ calls Christian parents to die to self, and to live for another, that is, for their child's sake. To do so faithfully requires the death of the self-serving flesh and the awakening of the new man. Any good mother knows the wants and needs of her own life must be put second to the wants and needs of her child. Consider how Christ's love is reflected here! Jesus came into this world and emptied himself of glory. He went hungry and thirsty, homeless and tired, grew weary with the press of the crowds, was beleaguered by the sins of men. And he bore it all for us men and our salvation.

Jesus says to the Christian mother, "Come and share in this cross with me. Come and die to selfish desires and learn what it means to serve another selflessly, even as I have served you." Now, is any mother able to do this perfectly? No. And why? Because of sin. That is why there is no such thing as the perfect mother. Still, the command to us children is "Honor your father and your mother." We do not honor our parents because they are worthy of honor. Sometimes parents fall woefully short of their callings. Still, we must honor our parents. Why? God gave us life through them, and worked through them to bless us. Even if we received nothing more than life in the womb from our mother, we honor them. And as Christians, we look to help and support mothers in their callings by praying for them, giving them items their children need, speaking against the evil of abortion, and helping them to find increasing happiness in the blessings of their children. And so, happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in Church today!

As the Roman Church Meets In Conclave

Some popes did good things. I remember John Paul II from my childhood. He identified, not only with the people of his native Poland, but with everyone who suffered under the yoke of Communist oppression. He played a vital role in the eventual fall of the Soviet Empire. He spoke out in defense of the unborn and the infirm, opposing both abortion and euthanasia. He stood firm against the ordination of women to the priesthood and upheld the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. As Lutherans we ought to say, good on him.

Still, as the Roman Church meets in conclave this week to select a successor to Francis, we ought to speak a sober word from Holy Scripture concerning the office of pope itself. We read in paragraph 234 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.): "For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as a pastor of the entire Church, has <u>full</u>, <u>supreme</u>, <u>and universal power over the whole Church</u>, a power which he can always exercise unhindered." This is false. The pope is not the pastor of the entire Church. Jesus is. Jesus alone is the Pastor and Bishop of every individual Christian's soul (1 Peter 2:25). When the pope claims to be the pastor of the entire Church and lays claim to "full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church" he attacks the Gospel by which sinners are saved. For the only authority or power any pastor has is the authority or power of the Keys that Christ has given to the entire Church. That is the authority to preach and teach God's word, both law and Gospel, and to administer the sacraments according to Christ's institution. To lay claim to any other authority is to set oneself above Christ himself and to deceive people in Christ's name. Every pastor of the Church must have the same authority because there is no churchly authority above and beyond the word of Christ that sets sinners free by his blood.

We need no pope, no clerical hierarchy, no college of cardinals, no invocations to Mother Mary, no sacrifices of the Mass, or anything else above and beyond the pure Gospel and sacraments of the Lord Jesus. We need only the voice of our Shepherd and Bishop, Jesus. We need his washing of baptism by which we die to sin and live to righteousness. We need his words of Gospel that bring to us forgiveness from the blood he shed for us on the cross once and for all. We need Christ's words that keep giving to us forgiveness in our sinful need. We need the body and blood of Christ given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. **There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**," Paul wrote (1 Timothy 2:5). We need no other human being to mediate for us divine truth.

In the Book of Concord, the Lutheran reformers list these three issues with the Roman pope: "First, he assumes the right to alter Christ's teaching and the worship instituted by God, and he wants his own doctrine and worship regarded as divine. Second, he claims not only the power to bind and loose in this life but also authority over souls after this life [purgatory]. Third, the pope is not willing to be judged by the church or anyone else and places his authority above the judgment of councils and of the whole church. To refuse to be judged by the church or by anyone else is to make himself God." (*Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope*, 40). We believe there is only one authority in the Christian Church. It is not the pope, but the Word of God. All true and faithful Christian pastors must submit to it alone and not to the words and works of men. To do so is to acknowledge Christ alone as the only Lord and Savior of sinners.

Announcements

St. Paul

We rejoice with Joseph and Chloe Johnson whose daughter, Holly Jean, will be baptized today in the late service. Her sponsors are Kim and Sean MacDowell. We rejoice with Holly, Chloe and Joey, Kim and Sean, on this, Holly's Baptism Day.

We also rejoice with Emma Keane and Lucas Juengel who were united in Holy Marriage yesterday, May 10th. We will pray for them this morning in the prayer of the Church.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the congregation. Each Mother's Day, Right to Life of Northeast Indiana partners with area churches to honor the calling of motherhood with beautiful flowers. Honor a mother in your life by picking up a **carnation** for her while supporting the pro-life mission. Carnations will be available today, **Sunday**, **May**11th. Suggested donation of \$2 per stem. To learn more about the work of RLNI, visit ichooselife.org. We "Thank you" for your continued prayers and support for LIFE!

Come to Bible Class today. Seminarian Gunstein Innvær and his wife Helene will be presenting on their future Church in Norway during Bible Class hour this Sunday and will even bring some Norwegian treats for the congregation to share. Come and learn where Gunstein and Helene are headed so that you can know how to pray for them as they leave St. Paul.

Church Picnic has been scheduled for <u>Sunday</u>, <u>June 1st at 11:30AM</u>. Sign up in the narthex to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Do you have any talents like face painting? Could you help us by bringing items for games, such as a corn hole set? We could use your help! Come and join us for some good fun and fellowship. Also, Sunday School materials for our Kindergarteners, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade students will be passed out on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>May 25th</u>. Please have your student to Church this Sunday to receive their materials.

A Note on Christian Stewardship: SGOs. Looking to save on State Taxes AND support your Church financially? Give an SGO scholarship! You can benefit your Church with a donation to the SGO, AND get yourself a 50% credit against your state tax liability for your contribution. Students at Wyneken also benefit from SGO gifts. In other words, an SGO gift from a Church member is a win-win-win. Consider directing your Church giving toward an SGO scholarship. St. Paul will benefit all the same, AND you can save on taxes! Want to learn more? Pick up a sheet in the narthex today, or talk to Pr. Yeager for more information.

Noodles. From the Ladies Aid: We will be making noodles in June two weeks in a row. Starting Sunday, June 15 with set up after church. We'll make noodles on the 16,17,18, bag on the 19th, rest then start again on the 22nd making the loaves and then cutting them into noodles the 23, 24, 25. with bagging and clean up in the 26th. All are invited to come and help! We start at 8am on the week days and try to finish up by 1-2pm. Also, lunch is a carry-in.

Summer Schedule. On Sunday, May 25th, which is Memorial Day weekend, we will revert to our summer schedule at St. Paul. One service will be offered at 9AM on Sunday mornings with no Bible Class or Sunday School. Wednesday services continue weekly at 7PM.

Minutes from the April Voters meeting are printed and available in the narthex. Pick up a copy today.

Wyneken

Assistant AD Sought for the 2025-2026 school year. For additional information, please contact Andrew Gavrun at 260-639-6177 or principal@wyneken.org.

Wyneken Childcare is excited to offer Summer Care starting May 23rd-August 12th. We will be open 7am-5:30pm. If interested, please contact Janine Albert at childcare@wyneken.org.

Summer Art and Music Camp: Zion Friedheim is holding Art and Music Camp on Tuesday, May 27th-Thursday, May 29th from 9-11:30. Students entering 2nd-8th grade are eligible to participate. Students will sing and play instruments with Allison Ulmer and create artistic masterpieces with Joan Tietz (acclaimed multimedia artist and art teacher), A supply fee of \$25/student will be collected to offset the cost of t-shirts and art supplies. Register here or text Allison at 361-236-5507 before May 5th to ensure that your child gets a spot and a shirt!

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, May 13 Wednesday, May 14

Thursday, May 15

Sunday, May 18

Sunday, May 11 **8AM Divine Service, Fourth Sunday after Easter**

9:15AM Bible Class/Sunday School Innvær Presentation during Bible Class, Mother's Day Carnations for sale

Mother's Day Carnations for sale

10:15AM Matins, Fourth Sunday after Easter

Baptism of Holly Jean Johnson

Early Bird Bible Class, St. John Bingen Parish Hall

7PM Vespers

7PM Ladies Aid business meeting

8AM Matins, Fifth Sunday after Easter 9:15AM Sunday School/ Bible Class

10:15AM Divine Service, Fifth Sunday after Easter

Prayer of the Church

- +Thanksgiving to God on this Mother's Day for the blessings of earthly mothers.
- +**Those who rejoice**: Holly Jean Johnson, her parents Joey and Chloe, on her Baptism Day.
- +**Those who rejoice**: Emma Keane and Lucas Juengel, united in marriage May 10.
- +Wyneken: our teachers, Amber Oedewaldt, students, staff, and childcare.
- +Expectant mothers: Kelly Skove, Danielle Meshberger.
- +**The Homebound**: Laurna Bulmahn, Marilyn Werling, Cindy Gallmeyer, Warren Scheumann (all at Woodcrest); Mike Hoffman (Cedarhurst Fort Wayne); Gene Bulmahn (Christian Care, Bluffton); Don Haines (home), Ron Selking (Assisted living facility—Chesterton, Indiana).
- +Birthdays 5/11-5/17: Marcia Selking, Zach Macke, Calvin Faurote, Jerry Gallmeyer, Danielle Meshberger, Nevaeh Martinez.

Acolytes 5/11

8AM Jazper Huff

10:15AM Daniel Vogel

Attendance

Wed. 4/30 7PM: 11

5/4 8:00: 83

5/4 10:15: 163

Stewardship

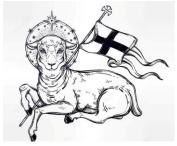
Offering 4/27: \$5,305.52

Online: \$411.52

Total F.T.W.: \$5,717.04

vs. weekly goal (of \$9,675): -\$4,369.48

Y.T.D.: -\$45,926.41



Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church—Preble, Indiana

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Church Email: stpaulpreble@gmail.com Webpage: stpaulpreble.org

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