



May 9, 2021

**Sixth Sunday of  
Easter**

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church  
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation      Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation      O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation      therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation      I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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.**

#### ABSOLUTION

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

**Congregation      Amen.**

## **ENTRANCE HYMN** *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*

- 1. What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we  
bear  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer**
- 2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3. Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in  
prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace  
there.**

## **KYRIE**

**Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

## ***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS***

**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;**

**Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.**

**We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,**

**Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,**

**You bore for us the load of this world's sin.**

**O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,**

**Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,**

**At God's right hand in majesty most high:**

**Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,**

**With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor O God,  
the giver of all that is good,  
by Your holy inspiration  
grant that we may think those things that are right  
and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

**First Reading: Acts 10:34-48**

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.<sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),<sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.<sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.<sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.<sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,<sup>47</sup> "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"<sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

*After the reading:*

Lector        This is the Word of the Lord  
**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

***Epistle Reading:***

***1 John 5:1-8***

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.<sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.<sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.<sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world---our faith.<sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup> This is he who came by water and blood---Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.<sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify:<sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe**

**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter fifteen, beginning at verse nine.

**Congregation Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>9</sup> [Jesus said:] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.  
<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you.<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.<sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

*After the reading:*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *Children of the Heavenly Father*

- 1. Children of the heavenly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.**
- 2. God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.**
- 3. Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**
- 4. Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.**

## Sermon

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,  
**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **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.**



## **CLOSING HYMN**

## *Now Thank We All Our God*

- 1** Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2** O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next!
- 3** All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, John Difabio, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, BJ Heinz, Christopher Huss, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Pastor Ed Lazarchak, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Ed Miller, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Richard Ruhl and the residents and staff of Evergreen Court, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

## NEWS AND NOTICES

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Ministry to the Armed Forces, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)).

**ST. PAUL'S SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTION** will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM via ZOOM at <https://sunymaritime.zoom.us/j/97534937682>. Further information is provided in the May Lamplighter.

**BELETED CONGRATULATIONS** to Kylie Keil and TJ Parsells. Their daughter, Brynne Zabelle Parsells was born February 24, 2021. Brynne's birth weight is five pounds and fifteen ounces. Brynne is the granddaughter of David and Terry Keil. Brynne will be baptized on Sunday, August 15.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, May 9

9:00 AM -- Bible Study

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Tuesday, May 11

7:30 PM – Semi Annual Congregational Meeting & Election

Wednesday, May 12

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class

Thursday, May 13

6:00 PM – Ascension Day Outdoor Communion Service