



**ST. PAUL'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
1609 Kurtz Avenue ~ Lutherville, MD 21093

*Welcome to our contemporary worship service. If you haven't already done so, take a moment to silence your devices, check in on social media, and breathe a bit before we start. Directions from the pastor will invite you to stand or "rise in body or spirit" for that section, also indicated by an asterisk.*

**As We Gather for Worship Today**

**Social Distancing:** As a reminder, we are expecting everyone gathered in this space to follow the social distancing guidelines with which you are familiar: keep at least 6' distance from others, wearing a facemask is recommended but optional in this space, and use hand sanitizer often. You are invited to sing as you wish. Parents, please keep your children with you within your area for the duration of the service.

**Restrooms:** The bathrooms alongside the entrance hallway are available – please give one another space as needed.

**Communion:** We celebrate the sacrament of Communion as part of our worship, and all are welcome at the Table. When directed by the Host, you may turn right at the head of the aisle to pick-up pre-packaged Elements from the basket to commune at your seat, or turn left at the head of the aisle to be served bread and receive a pre-filled glass of red wine or white grape juice. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat.

**Sending:** At the end of the service, please make sure to gather your belongings as you head into the rest of your day. Thank you for putting any borrowed chairs back in the rack by the main doors. There is a basket on a table to place your offering, a bin to receive any food donations for ACTC or our Food For Thought ministry, and a trashcan for the Communion container.

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE: *Open Our Eyes***

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG: *His Love Endures Forever* by Bob Wilson**

He makes the sun come up each day, He gives the moon and stars their light  
He brings the rain to a thirsty land, Oh, the wonders of His hand

He feels the pain of a baby's cry, He hears the prayer of a mother's heart  
He dries the tears from troubled eyes, Oh, the wonders of His love

And His love endures forever, unchanging always true  
And His love endures forever, forever, for all time  
Yes, His love endures forever, love divine

He is the judge of great and small, He is the word called righteousness  
He is the risen Lord of all, Oh, the wonders of His name

He is the hope of the captive's heart, He is the pow'r that sets them free  
It's in His life that we receive...the wonders of His love

And His love endures forever, unchanging always true  
And His love endures forever, forever, for all time  
Yes, His love endures forever, love divine

**\*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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Psalm 148**

A reading from the Psalms.

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.
- <sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
- <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,
- <sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;
- <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup>young men and maidens,  
old and young together.
- <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that God gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son-of-Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in God's own self and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Power of Your Love* by Geoff Bullock**

Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You  
And Lord I've come to know, the weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away, by the pow'r of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, And I will soar with you, Your spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of You love

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love, as You live in me  
Lord renew my mind as Your will unfolds, in my life  
In living every day, in the pow'r of Your Love

Hold me close, let Your love surround me, Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, And I will soar with you, Your spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of Your love

### **\*CREED**

Speaking words of belief and trust, let us confess our faith together.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. Abide with those who live around us in Lutherville, especially our community partners and our neighbors. Be present with what we offer in these prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings we give to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space (*we pause for spoken and silent prayers*)... God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with a wave from your seat to those outside of your household group, and to use a greeting or gesture you would like to share within your group.*

## MEAL

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE

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.**

#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

**SHARING THE MEAL**

*As we celebrate the sacrament of Communion today, all are welcome at the Table. When directed by the Host down the center aisle, you may turn right at the head of the aisle to pick-up pre-packaged Elements from the basket to commune at your seat, or turn left at the head of the aisle to be served bread and receive a pre-filled glass of red wine or white grape juice, then placing your empty cup in the basket. Use the side aisles to return to your seat.*

*If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer, until we all regather.*

**REFLECTION SONG: *Commune With Me***

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

Dear Church, may God, who is the Author of life; Christ, who is the living Cornerstone; and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG: *In the Secret* by Andy Park**

In the secret in the quiet place, In the stillness You are there  
In the secret in the quiet hour I wait, only for You  
'Cause I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more

I am reaching for the highest goal, That I might receive the prize  
Pressing onward, Pushing every hindrance aside, Out of my way  
'Cause I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more

I want to know You, I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You, I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more

In the secret in the quiet place, In the stillness You are there

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**OFFERING**

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this holy day!*

Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Dr. Ed Kay

Host/Usher

Debi Maas

Assisting Minister:

Courtney Mellecker

Worship Musician

Steve Dooley