

Sunday, April 21, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

In April the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India. The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do or https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081 815-625-3069 Pastor Makayla Dahleen Pastor Email: <u>pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com</u> Pastor Phone: 815-780-9401 Church email: <u>stpaulsterling@comcast.net</u> <u>www.stpaulsterling.com</u>

Prelude

"Mighty to Save" Carol Tornquist

Welcome/Announcements

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! All: Christ is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

All: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: 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!

All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: 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.

All: 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.

P: Look, here is water! All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!" ELW #369



Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt. Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

R: A reading from First John:

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

R: Word of God, Word of Life. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

All: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

R: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

All: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter,

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down

of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

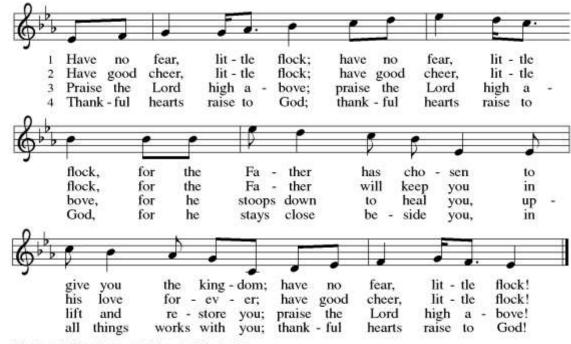
Sermon

Pastor Makayla Megan Matas, Mental Health Counselor at LSSI

Hymn of the Day

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

ELW #764



Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4

Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930 Text and music @ 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Each petition ends with these words:

R: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

"You Never Let Go" Matt Redman

Offering Response "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186



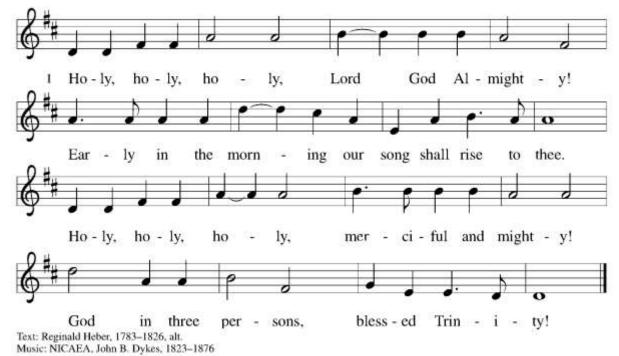
The Great Thanksgiving
P: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

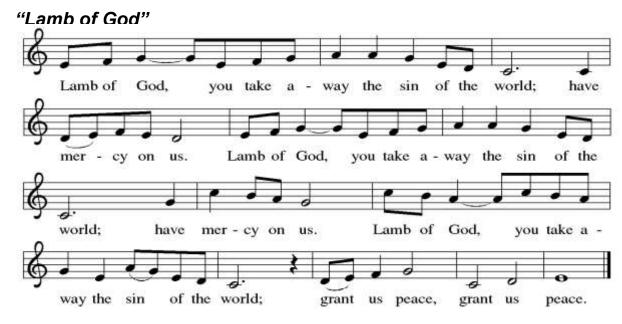
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

Communion Music



"My Shepherd, You Supply My Need" Robert A. Hobby

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: 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 the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **All: Amen**

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit

of Easter hope \pm bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Song "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" ELW #536



Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

Mark Sedio

(Recorded St. Paul & St. John's musicians: Brian Lobdell, Evan Lobdell, Kerensa Pink, Gerad VonHolten, Collin Zollinger, Gabe Zeigler – mixed by Gerad VonHolten)

The Children's offerings this morning and loose plate will go to LSSI as part of the Good Shepherd Sunday donations.

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Mary Summers, Dorothy Carr, Eric Brown, Michelle Klinger, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Harold & Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, and Berta Beyer.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo Acolytes – Volunteer Needed Greeters – Mary Ordean, Volunteer Needed Ushers – Nancy Beck, Janie Billings Reader – Bev Julien Sound – Bradyn Arians

Live Musician:

Julie Woessner

Recorded Musician:

Dawn Zeigler

Next week – April 28

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chad Arians Acolytes – Arians family Greeters – John Renner. Nancy Frank Ushers – Donna Kendall, Dan Dir Reader – Marilyn Geiger Sound – Greg Zeigler Coffee Fellowship – Bill & Carolyn Duncan

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