

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5322 PALMS ROAD, CASCO TWP., MI 48064

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024 –9:30 A.M.

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## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: 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. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water! **C: 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.

P: Look, here is water! **C: 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. 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. **C: Amen.**

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

## GATHERING SONG: We Plow the Fields ELW #681

1) We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land . .

But it is fed and wa - tered, by God's al-might-y hand . .

Who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain . .

The bree-zes and the sun - shine, and soft re-fresh-ing rain . .

**Refrain: All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove,**

**We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all . . your . . love.**

2) You on-ly are the mak - er of all things near and far . .

You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve-ning star . .

The winds and waves o-bey you, by you the birds are fed . .

Much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai-ly bread . . **Refrain**

3) We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good . .

The seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food . .

No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts . .

But what you most would trea - sure, our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts . . **Refrain**

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; Music: Johann A.P. Schulz, 1747-1800. Public Domain

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let Us Pray* - O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sing - C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for

whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### THE SERMON

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY: Jesus Shall of the Reign ELW #434**

- 1) Je - sus shall reign . . . where-e’er . . . the sun . . . does . . . its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;  
His .king-dom stretch . .from . .shore . .to . . shore . . . till moons shall wax . . and wane no more.
- 3) Peo - ple and realms of ev - ‘ry tongue . . . dwell on his love with sweet - est song;  
And in-fant voic - es shall pro - claim . . . their ear-ly bless - ings on his name.
- 4) Bless - ings a-bound where-e’er he reigns . . the pris-‘ners leap to lose their chains . .  
The wea-ry find e - ter - nal rest . . and all who suf - fer want are blest.
- 5) Let ev - ‘ry crea - ture . . rise and bring . . pe - cu-liar hon - ors . . to our King;  
An - gels de-scend with songs again, and earth re - peat . . the loud . . a - men.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt; Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793; contributors Duke Street. #94266  
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**THE APOSTLES CREED** P: Let us confess our faith in Triune God.

**C: 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**

### THE PRAYERS

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. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. Today we pray for .....And those we name now, out loud, in our hearts, or in the comment section at this time.

(pause for names to be added at this time) God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, when the storms of war and violence threaten, awaken our faith to know the power of your peace. Deliver us from fear and ease our anxiety. Help us to endure times of uncertainty and give us strength to face the challenges ahead. God of grace, **hear our Prayer**

Lord of Refuge, be with those who serve our nation and protect them. Give us the assurance of your presence with them in this time, so that all may cling to your promise of hope and life shown to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. God of grace, **hear our Prayer**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE** P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**P:** I invite you, at this time, to make a gesture of peace to your siblings in Christ.



**THE THANK OFFERING** *For those who desire to make a financial offering you may drop them off at the offering station before or after service.* For those who wish to make an online financial offering scan the QR code with your mobile device or go to: [secure.myvanco.com/YM5K/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/YM5K/home)  
You may also choose to mail your offerings to the church: 5322 Palms Road, Casco, MI, 48064

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

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

P: 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:

**C: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C: 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.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER - sing**

**C: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**THE MEAL** P: All those who believe in the promise are invited to partake in God's amazing grace at this time.

## **COMMUNION HYMN: Shepherd Me O God ELW #780**

**Refrain: Shep-herd me, O God . . be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from death, in-to life.**

- 1) God is-my shep-herd, so noth-ing-shall-I want . .  
I rest, in-the mea-dows, of faith-ful-ness and love,  
I walk, by-the qui - et wa - ters . . . of peace . . . . **REFRAIN**
- 2) Gent-ly you raise-me, and heal-my-wea-ry soul . . you lead me-by path-ways  
of right-teous-ness and truth . . my spir-it-shall sing, the mu - sic of your name. **REFRAIN**
- 3) Though I-should wan-der the val - ley of death . . I fear no, e- vil, for-you-are-at-my side . .  
Your rod and-your staff, my com-fort and my hope . . . . **REFRAIN**
- 4) You-have set me-a-ban-quet of love . . . in-the face of ha- tred . . . .  
crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r . . . to hold . . . . **REFRAIN**
- 5) Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me . . all the days of-my life . . .  
I-will dwell in-the house of-my God, for-ev - er - more . . . . **REFRAIN**

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## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**DOXOLOGY - Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise him, all creatures here below;**

**praise him above, ye heavenly host;**

**praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Public Domain**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING:** P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: Blessed Assurance ELW #638**

- 1) Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!  
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
**Refrain: This is my sto - ry, this is my song . . . prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:  
This is my sto - ry, this is my song . . . prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.**

3-Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,  
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

**REFRAIN**

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908 Public Domain

**DISMISSAL** P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**~ ~ Additional Reading for this week Psalm 22:25-31 ~ ~**

***Weekly devotional with Pastor Kirk  
on Wed., May 1, 2024 Facebook at 7:00 p.m.***