

St. Paul Lutheran Church

777 South Summit Street; Smithville, Ohio 44677; 330-669-2111

Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor; 803-673-1727

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This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ.

Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

***Sixth Sunday in Easter
In-Person Worship Service
May 5, 2024***

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

****Thanksgiving for Baptism***

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

C: Amen.

P: People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ
from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and
our shame are drowned and gone here.

C: You, O God, wash us clean.

A: Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair -
- ALL are washed away by grace.

C: You, O God, wash us clean.

P: Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us
no longer have the power to define us.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

A: The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

P: Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

P: And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Written by Michael Coffey
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Derivatives 4.0 International License*

***Gathering Hymn: # 482 "I Come with Joy"**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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***Greeting & Call to Worship:**

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

C: And also with you.

A: God of Life, we gather together to praise you!

C: Our Savior is alive and we are set free!

A: You appeared to those who were afraid and grieving,

C: and you come to us when we are afraid and grieving, too.

A: May our hearts stay open to your presence in this place.

C: May we watch and wait for you in hope and faith.

**Prayer of the Day:*

A: Let us pray. O God,

C: you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 98

R: O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

**C: The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

R: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**C: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

R: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

R: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**C: Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

R: at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.


R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

R: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

***Gospel Acclamation:**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -



lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of John the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**Gospel Reading:* John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day: # 453 "Baptized and Set Free"



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

The Nicene Creed

A: Together, let us confess our faith.

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic (*universal*) and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers

A: 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with other believers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray this day for these in need of care: Harriett, Dorothy, Yvonne, Jane, Sandy, Larry, Brad, Marilyn, Erica, Pat, Ron, Karen and our St Paul Families: Dempsey, Pamela, Ken, and Pat. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering: Thank you to everyone who continues to support our ministries. You may place your offering in the plates as they pass. You may also sign up for automatic giving or make an offering by clicking the donate button on our website: www.stplcsmithville.org

Offertory:

“Over My Head”

Choir

*Words: African American Spiritual, Music arr. by John Bell
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**Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray. Risen One,

C: 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.**

Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving:*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

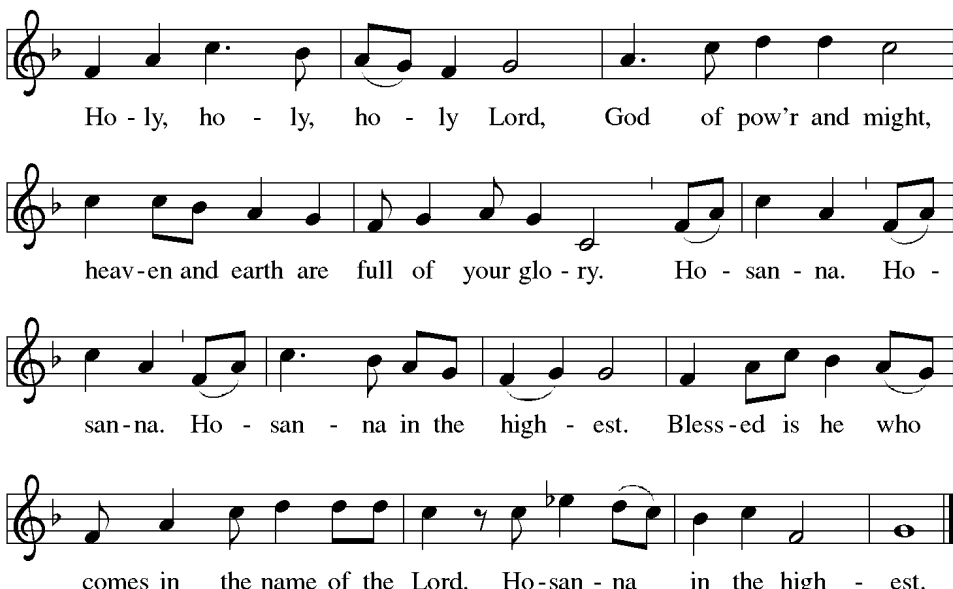
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the
witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending praise: *(sing response)*

C:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

****Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution***

P: ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: ...be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer*

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

**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 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Holy Communion

(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal.)

P: This is the body of Christ given for you.

(You may eat your wafer)

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

(You may drink the wine from your cup)

C: Thanks be to God!

Communion Hymn: # 595 "Jesus Loves Me"



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Communion Hymn: # 731 "Earth and All Stars"



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

**Post Communion Blessing*

**Benediction*

**Sending Hymn: # 836 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

**Dismissal (with enthusiasm)*

A: Alleluia! Go in Peace.

Rejoice and be glad!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Your Prayers Are Requested For:

*Harriett, Dorothy, Yvonne, Jane, Sandy, Brad, Marilyn, Erica, Larry,
Pat, Ron, Karen*

St. Paul Families:

Dempsey & Pam Root, and Ken & Pat Rutherford

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by
Dave & Barb Miller in honor of their anniversary.*

Thank you to those serving this morning

Pastor: Kristy Buyok
Cantor: Lesley Mast
Assisting Minister: Pam Root
Lector: Lyn Miller
Pianist: Joe Hennell
Communion Assistant: Nancy Carr
Altar Care: Larry & Sandy Allen
Ushers/Greeters: Nancy Percy and Tim Preston
Bread Baker: Lyn Miller



Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:

www.stplcsmithville.org/services

If you are unable to access via the internet,
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.
Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.

This Week

Sunday:	Drive-In Worship Sanctuary Worship No Sunday School	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
Monday:	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday:	Church Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	Wednesday Meal Choir Bell Choir	5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Next Sunday:	Drive-In Worship Sanctuary Worship	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming & Announcements

There will be no Sunday School today.

Pastor will be on vacation from May 14-23. For emergency Pastoral Care, call Pastor Sue Rodgers from Augsburg Orrville at (330) 807-1162. Pastor Kristy will be without cell service most of that week.

Empty Nesters: Everybody welcome!!! Join us on May 18th at the church for a fun evening of "99". Not sure how to play....it's easy. We can teach you. Mark your calendars. May 18th at 5:30. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Bring a snack to share. Contact Steve or Nancy Carr if you have any questions 330-669-3023. Please come and enjoy!

Confirmation and Pentecost Celebration: On May 26th please wear red and join us to celebrate the confirmation of Brunden, Izzy, an Jaylyn! Reception following the 10 a.m. Worship service.

Campfire Worship: Bring a lawn chair and join us for campfire worship on May 29th at 6 p.m. We will be roasting hotdogs and marshmallows.



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru Paypal.

Wednesday Night Meals – May Menu

May 8 – Pulled pork sandwiches, tater tots, vegetables, and dessert

May 15 – Kitchen Committee casserole, salad, and dessert

May 22 – Chicken fritter, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and dessert

May 29 – Hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, vegetables, and dessert

Serving in May Drive-In	5/5	5/12	5/19	5/26
Assisting Minister	Karen Marks	Kailyn Brown	Lynn Moomaw	Adrienne Karlen
Greeters	Pat Badger & Bob Race	Pat Badger & Bob Race	Pat Badger & Bob Race	Pat Badger & Bob Race

Serving in May In-Person	5/5	5/12	5/19	5/26
Lay Reader	Lyn Miller	Lynn Moomaw	Mark Miller	Karen Marks
Assisting Minister	Pam Root	Lynn Moomaw	Hans Kwee	Kailyn Brown
Greeters/ Ushers	Nancy Percy Tim Preston	David Svegel Hans Kwee	Rex Raff Kathy Meitzler	Steve & Nancy Carr
Communion Assistant	Nancy Carr	Lynn Moomaw	Duane Eggeman	Tim Preston
Altar Care	Larry & Sandy Allen	Duane Eggeman	Lyn Miller	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler
Bread Baker	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr