

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
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**Serving Today:**

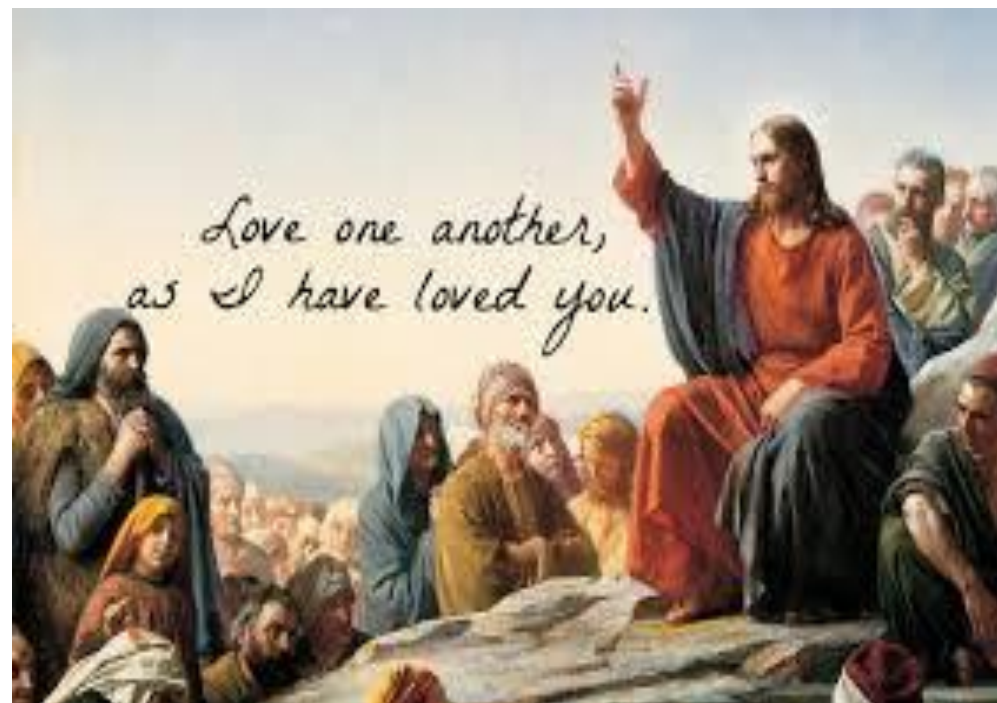
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Charlotte Stark
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Dave Melanson
<b>Lector:</b>	Jessica Melanson
<b>Ushers:</b>	Elke Simmons & Ed Lempke
<b>Greeters:</b>	Bill & Joyce Donovan
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Mary Breeding

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to* Molly Fant, Inge Mahlo, and Greg McIntrye.

*The Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee* has made teddy bears available for people to pray with during worship. Please feel free to take a bear with you as you come into the space, and return it to the back of the sanctuary following the service. These bears are given to people who could use a special “prayer hug,” so if you know of someone that could use a bear, please take one for them. Donations are welcome to replenish our supplies. For more information, please contact Nancy Janes, Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee Chairperson.

*On Sunday, May 21*, there is a special reception honoring our 2017 High School and College Graduates following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. *Also May 21<sup>st</sup>* is the closing day of our Sunday School year.

*Join us for a Worship Service of Remembrance* on Sunday, May 28. Please come in your uniform (scouts included) to stand in memory of this congregation’s fallen heroes of the Armed Forces.



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 14, 2017**

## Welcome to Worship!

*At St. Paul, no one is a stranger, for we are united by the common bond of our life in Christ. We welcome you to receive Communion at God's Table this morning or to come forward for a blessing if this is more comfortable for you. Communion can also be brought to you where you are sitting, and gluten-free wafers are available. All are welcome here! \*Please stand as you are able.*

### Announcements

### Prelude

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C: **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## Devotional

### GOSPEL MESSAGE

**May 14, 2017**

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Walk This Way

Jesus says he is “the way,” but what does he mean? Does he mean a path to a location, or is he referring to the way he lives? Of course, the answer is probably both.

This passage from John's gospel is often read at funerals. In that circumstance, we envision that Jesus goes to prepare a place for us in a geographical location we call heaven. Believing in Jesus is the way to get there.

But in John's gospel, the good news is that *God* has made a way to *us*. Jesus continues to be with us. We don't have to wait to be with him until after we die. The resurrected Jesus is with us, giving us abundant life *now* and into eternity!

In baptism we are joined to Jesus' death and resurrection, so that, as Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, “the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and . . . daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” Luther continues by reminding us of the apostle Paul's words in Romans 6: “We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might *walk in newness of life*” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1165, emphasis added).

The Word became flesh (John 1:1). Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is at one with the Father. To know Jesus and be at one with Jesus is to be at one with God. And when we are at one with Jesus, we walk like him, in his way.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**Communion Song “I Received the Living God”**  
*(Please remain quiet after singing the hymn)*

#477

**Blessing**

**Post Communion Prayer**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: AMEN!

**Sending Song “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**

#367

C: AMEN

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

**Postlude**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Gathering Song “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”**

#377

\*Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

**\*Kyrie**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P: We pray in your name.  
 C: AMEN!

Children's Message

**\*Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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**

P: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Lamb of God**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**\*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.**

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that....and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*Words of Institution**

**First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

pg. 153

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

**Responsive Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

pg. 622

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame; deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me; make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love.”

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

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<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**\*Alleluia**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

**\*Gospel: John 14:1-14**

**pg. 132**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*(After the reading)*

**P:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ!

**Message**

**The Rev. Valerie Anne Strickert**

**Sermon Song “You Are the Way”**

**#758**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

*(Please respond: Hear our prayer)*

**Passing of the Peace**

**Offering**

*(Please remain quiet during the offering)*

**Offertory “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”**

**-Courtney**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**#884**