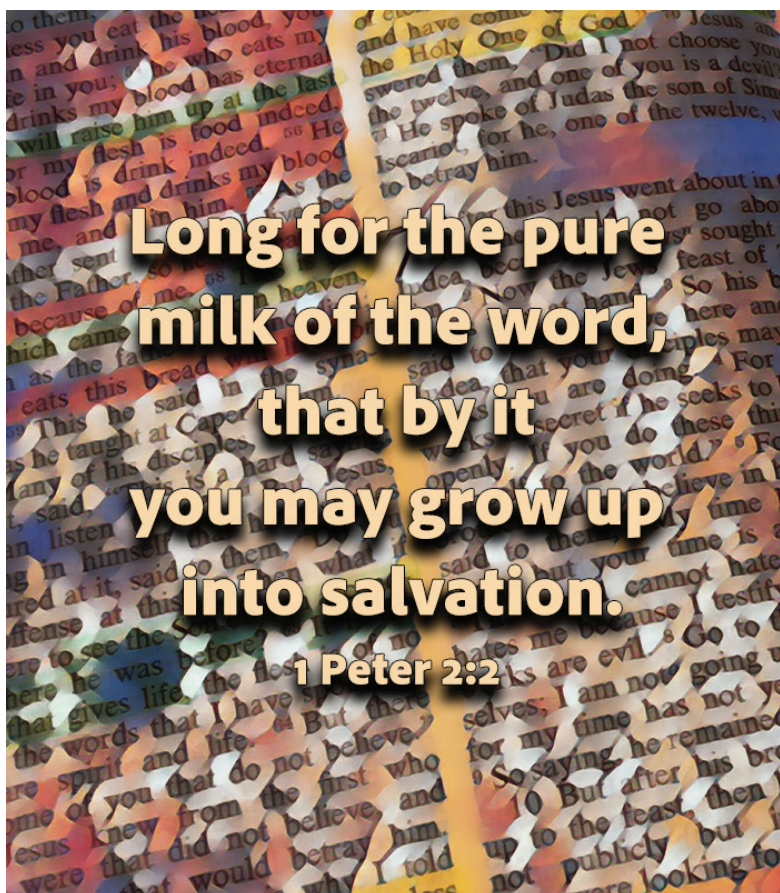




Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Reese Goodman • Crucifer: Andrew Baker

Lector: Jeanne Shaver

Communion Assistants: Sarah Fesperman,

Donna Lyerly, Jan McCanless

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Wilbur Held

The Ten Commandments *Please stand.*

The Lord is God, our God, and has brought us out of bondage to sin and death, commanding us to observe our conduct before him and our neighbor.

¹**You shall have no other gods before me.**

²**You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

³**Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

⁴**Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵**You shall not kill.**

⁶**You shall not commit adultery.**

⁷**You shall not steal.**

⁸**You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

⁹**You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house.**

¹⁰**You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor’s.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

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.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

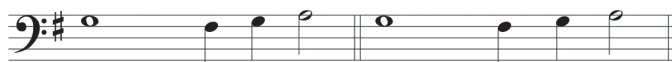


Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75

Leader:

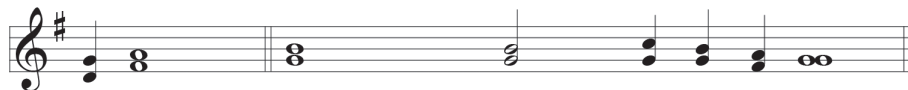


Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:



And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,



we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,



O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

Leader: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit.

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will.
Grant that your people would love what you command and desire
what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this
world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{2a} And Stephen said:

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their

ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises
to my God while I | have my being.

²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

⁶**Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the
eyes | of the blind;

the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

⁸**The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the
stranger;**

**he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates
the way | of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Offering

Anthem: “Abide With Me”

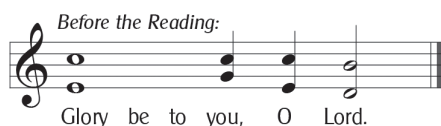
St. Paul’s Bell Choir

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



The Gospel is written in the 14th chapter of John.



Gospel: John 14:1-14

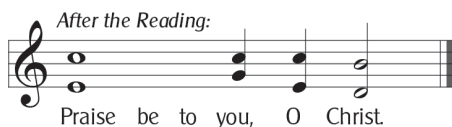
¹[Jesus said,] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles Creed

81

We confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his
only Son our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Children's Chat

Sermon: "Whole Milk"

Hymn: "Lord of All Hopefulness"

200

Prayers of the Church

Following each prayer: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen

Exhortation

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it

Leader

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation

We lift them to the Lord.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. For he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again, has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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

The Lord's Prayer

90

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹**hallowed be thy name,**

²**thy kingdom come,**

³**thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴**Give us this day our daily bread;**

⁵**and forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶**and lead us not into temptation,**

⁷**but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world,
grant us peace. A - - - - - men.

Distribution of Communion

92

Remain seated after the distribution.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Nunc Dimittus

92

Lord, now let your servant de- | part in | peace,
ac- | cording to | your | word.
For my eyes have | seen your sal- | vation,
which you have prepared before the | face of | all | people:
A light to | lighten the | Gentiles
and the | glory of your | people | Israel.
Glory | be to the | Father,
and to the | Son, and to the | Holy | Spirit,
As it | was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world without | end. | A- | men

Thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, almighty and loving Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Having received this holy Sacrament with our mouths, may faith apprehend and enjoy your grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ and his Church, and everlasting life. Send your Holy Spirit to remind us of these promises throughout the week, and keep us in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benedicamus

93

Leader: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: *Congregation:*

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "The Strife Is O'er"

Robert Lau

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

Benediction

93

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



Church Office Email Address Change

The new address is **secretary@stpaulslutheran.church**. The former email address, **splchurch@att.net**, is going away. Emails sent to that address may not be seen.

Youth Choir and Sunday Practice

Parents, please bring your child to **music practice today at 2pm**. This is the last rehearsal before Youth Sunday. We want the youth to be successful and have a good time singing that morning.

Right after music practice, **all youth and parents will meet for Youth Sunday practice at 3pm**.

Community Concert

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a concert with **Matthew Weaver and Clay Lunsford on Friday, May 19th**, in the fellowship hall at 7pm.

Many of you have heard them play before, and we hope you will come. But more than just the church members, we want to use this concert to invite family, friends, and neighbors. This is a free concert and we will serve refreshments. It doesn't get any better than that. Hope to see you all on May 19th, at 7pm.

Blood Drive—May 8th, 2023

Thanks to all who supported the February blood drive at our church. The second of our four yearly **blood drives is tomorrow in the fellowship hall from 1:30pm – 6:00pm.** Everyone knows someone who has received a transfusion, whether it is a family member or just an acquaintance. Please give.

The goal at our church for each drive is 35 units which our church has averaged over the past five years. To achieve that goal, 40+ donors need to be available since a deferred rate of 15-20% occurs because of low hemoglobin, medications, and/or certain health issues.

If you have donated in the past two years, you will receive a scheduled appointment (that can easily be changed). If you would like to be a new donor, please contact Alice Davis (704-855-4930, or pherford1@yahoo.com).

Mother's Day Luncheon

May 13th, the Women of the Church are hosting our annual Mother's Day Luncheon. It will be in the fellowship hall from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The theme for this year is "Momma's Apron." Remember back to the days when your momma or grandma wore an apron and what they put in the pockets or used it for. Bring all those memories and join us for lunch.

We will have salads with grilled chicken, chicken salad and other toppings available. Chicken tenders will be available for the kids. St Paul's Youth will be providing the entertainment. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5.00 for children 4 to 12, and 3 and under are free. **Get your tickets on the porch today after worship.** Hope you see you there!

Vacation Bible School June 23–25, 2023—This year's theme is **water**—think Noah and the ark, Jonah and the whale, baptism, sprinklers, water slides, etc. Age groups are pre-school 3-4 years old through middle school. More details to come as plans are made. **Register your child now** for a great time at VBS 2023. Registration forms are on the literature table in the narthex and online.

Sunday, May 7

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- Tickets for Mother's Day luncheon, after worship on the porch
- Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- All youth music practice, 2pm
- Youth Sunday practice, 3pm
- Men's choir, 3pm
- Handbell Choir, 4pm
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm will also be live-streamed to our Facebook page.

Monday, May 8

- Faith Academy afterschool program, 1-3pm
- Blood Drive, 1:30-6pm
- Melissa Lura Circle, 6:30pm
- Outreach Committee, 6:30pm
- Youth & Family Committee, video conference, 8pm

The meeting link will be sent to your email address.

Tuesday, May 9

- Classical Conversations year-end party, picnic shelter, 5:30pm
- Adult Confirmation, 6pm
- Executive Committee, 7pm
- Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- Girl Scouts, 7pm

Wednesday, May 10

- Choir practice, 6:30
- Youth Confirmation class, 7:30pm

Thursday, May 11

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm

Saturday, May 13

- Mother's Day Luncheon, fellowship hall, 11am

Sunday, May 14

- Mother's Day
- Youth Sunday
- Men's choir, 3pm
- Handbell Choir, 4pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm will also be live-streamed to our Facebook page.

Recent prayer needs:

- Linda Beaver – In-home care
- Cyri Cottingham – Recovering from surgery
- Matthew Cottingham – Upcoming surgery
- Grady Earnhardt – Recovering from surgery
- Kelly Gainey – Hospitalized
- Della Jenkins – Health concerns
- Linda Lyerly – Recovering from surgery
- Ray Mongold (son of Dottie Stancil) – Hosptial/ICU
- George Reese – Recovering from surgery
- Wayne Taylor – Upcoming surgery

Please see the monthly Epistle for a complete list of prayer needs for members, homebound, family, and friends.

Stewardship

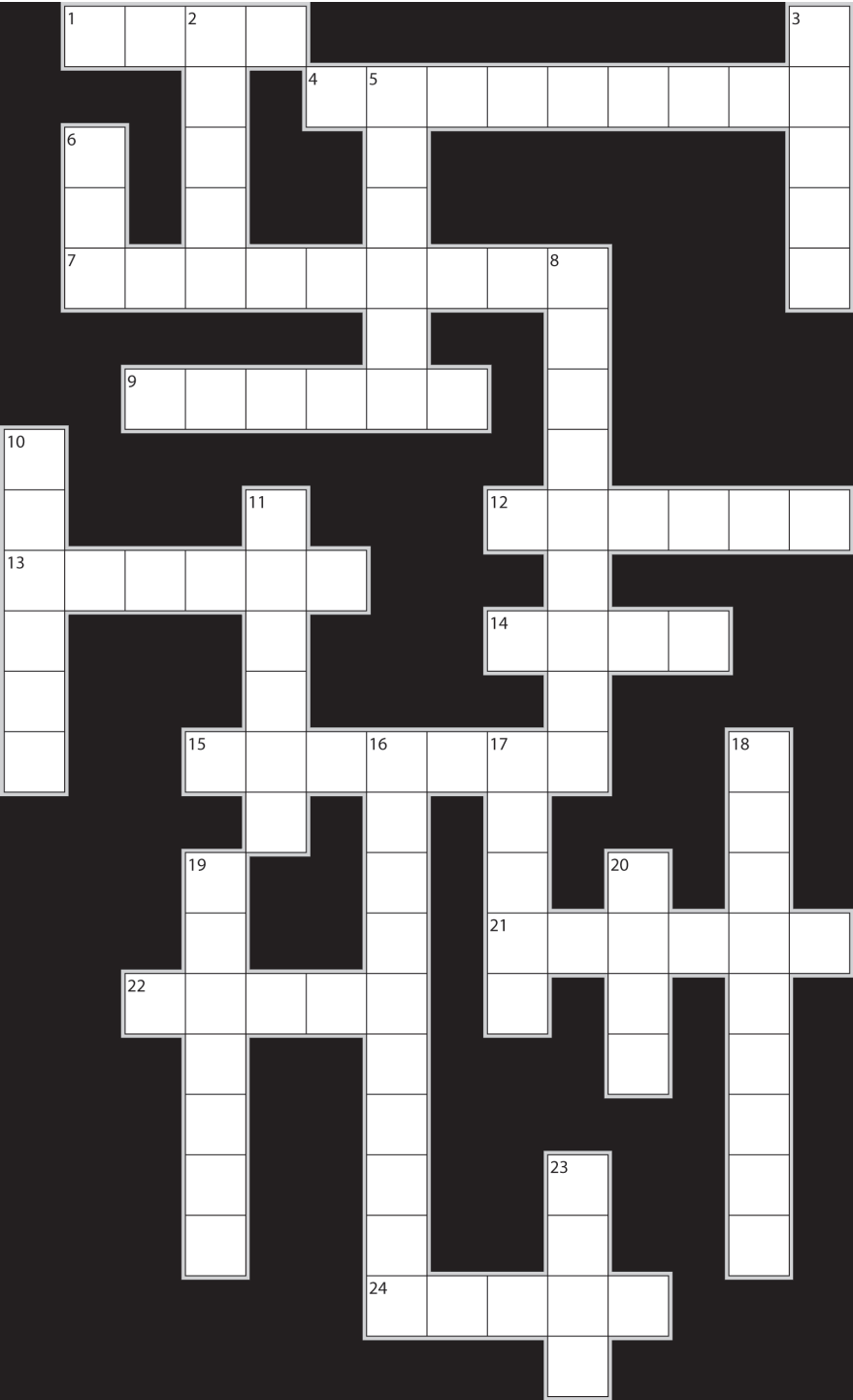
General Fund Offering (4/30)	\$5,657
Other Offering (4/30).....	\$541
Children’s Mission 2nd quarter (Lutherans for Life).....	\$687
Sunday School Attendance (4/30).....	80
Worship Attendance (4/30).....	198
General Fund YTD Receipts as of (4/30)..	\$147,762
General Fund YTD Budget as of (4/30)	\$172,033

A reminder to those who uses the church kitchen, fellowship hall, or picnic shelter—Be sure to take all of your items when your event is over. There are many groups that use our gathering areas. During the spring and summer months the picnic shelter is used as well. Unfortunately, we do not have space for items to be left in the refrigerators, or on the countertops. Your consideration for others is appreciated.



**YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

— Exodus 20:16 —



Easter 5A

*Find the answers in today's four Scripture lessons.
It may help with the Psalm if you use the English Standard Version
instead of the old Psalter in the bulletin.*

ACROSS

1. He loves the righteous.
4. As priests, we to offer this kind of sacrifice.
7. What multiplied in Jerusalem?
9. The apostles devoted themselves to this and the ministry of the word.
12. No one comes to him except through Jesus.
13. What kind of race are Christian people?
14. Like babies, long for this.
15. He was full of faith and the Spirit.
21. Who did Jesus tell that he is the way, and the truth, and the life?
22. If you've seen him, you've seen the Father.
24. How often did the early church distribute food?

DOWN

2. There are many of these in the Father's house.
3. Jesus is preparing this for you.
5. Don't put your trust in them.
6. He keeps faith forever.
8. We are to grow up into this.
10. The Lord brings them to ruin.
11. Don't let these be troubled.
16. All Christians are being made into a holy...
17. Where people return when they breathe their last
18. What the apostles would not neglect
19. You are this if your hope is in the Lord
20. What continued to increase in the ancient church?
23. What kind of nation is the Church?



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

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Perry Bernhardt, Council President
perryhbernhardt@gmail.com

Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

Next Sunday's Lessons: Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

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