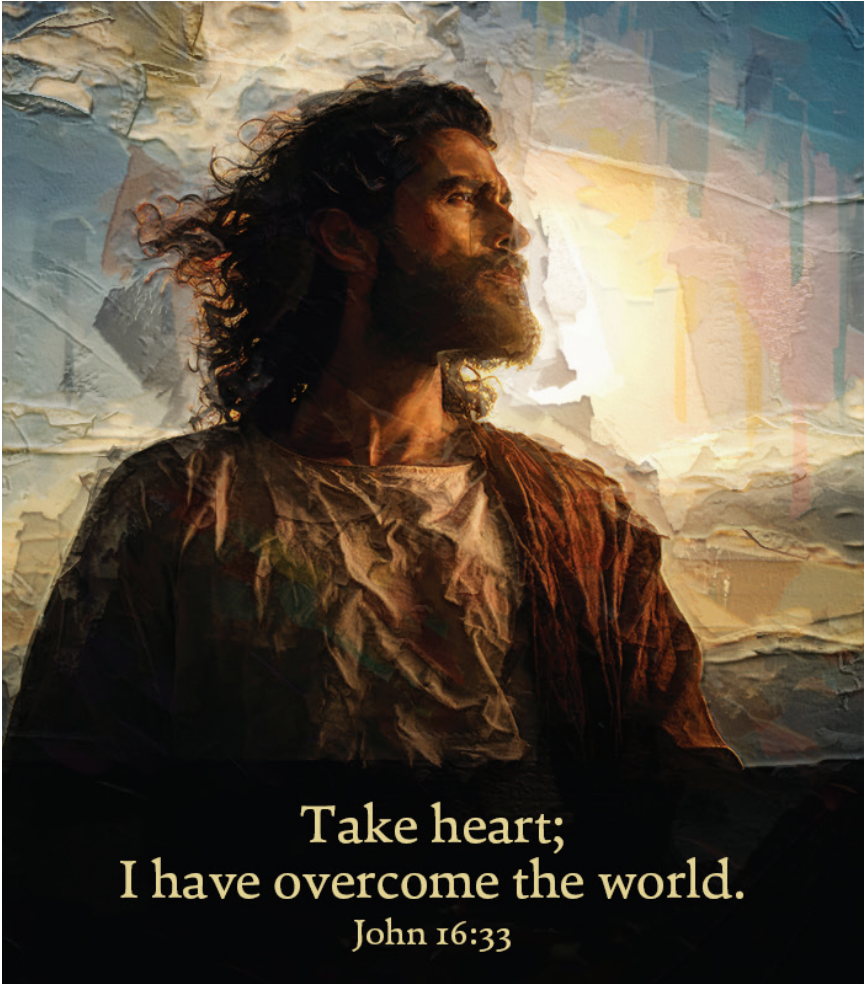




Take heart;
I have overcome the world.
John 16:33

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025 • 10:30AM

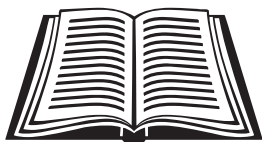
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Elin Wells • Crucifer: Zoe Wells
Cantor: Lindsey Whisnant • Lector: Coy Wilhelm
Communion Assistants: Autumn Hill,
Bonnie Hinson, Terri Powlas

This Week's Memory Verse

I have said these things to you,
that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart;
I have overcome the world.
(John 16:33)



Memory Verse Aid

IHSTTTY,
TIMYMH.P.
ITWYWHT.
BTH;
IHOTW.
(J1633)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Christ Is Risen from the Dead”

Men’s Choir

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

77

Stand and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Reflection and self-examination

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You 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.**

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

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

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

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

⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor's house.

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

Confession and Absolution

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage 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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. By Christ's authority alone, 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

Hymn: "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

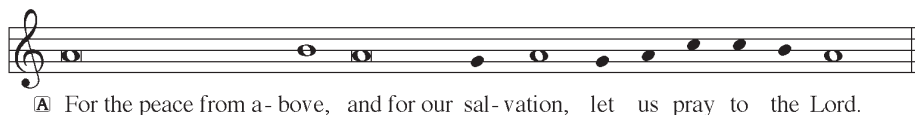
250

Greeting

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.

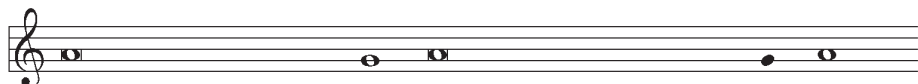
Kyrie

78

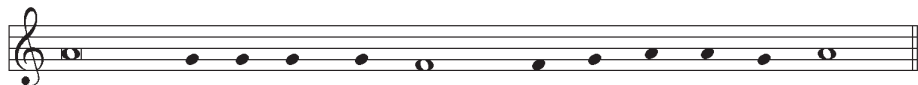




C Lord, have mer - cy.



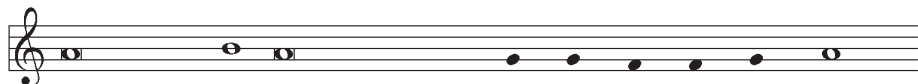
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise

79



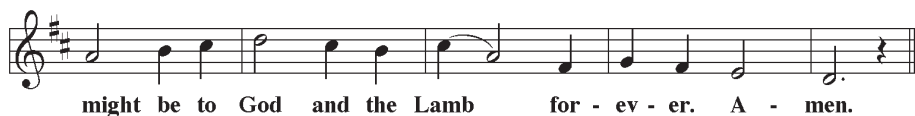
A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

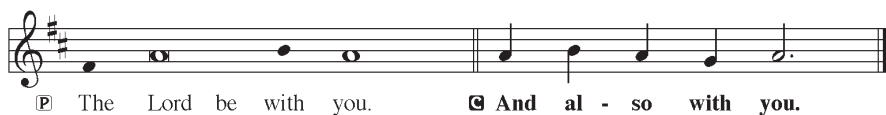


free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



Salutation and Prayer of the Day

82



O God, all good things can come from you alone. Generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right—through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Acts 16:9–15

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.
The word of the Lord.

Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and | come to us.

²**Let your ways be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
all the nations | upon earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.**

⁷May God give | us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed — ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

The word of the Lord.

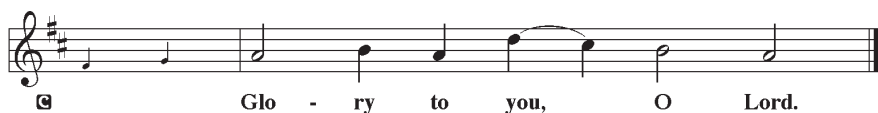
Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

83

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter.



Gospel: John 16:23–33

²³[Jesus said to his disciples,] “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” ²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.”

³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

The Gospel of our Lord.



Confession of Faith

85

We profess our faith in God using the Apostles Creed.

¹I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

²I 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.

³I 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

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "This World Is Not Our Home"

Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

439

The Prayers of the Church

85

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for
all people, according to their needs.

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

Offering: Scan the QR code to the right to be taken
directly to the giving page on your phone or tablet.

Ushers will also pass the offering plates along each row.



Anthem: "Wonderful Is He"

Men's Choir

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Thanksgiving

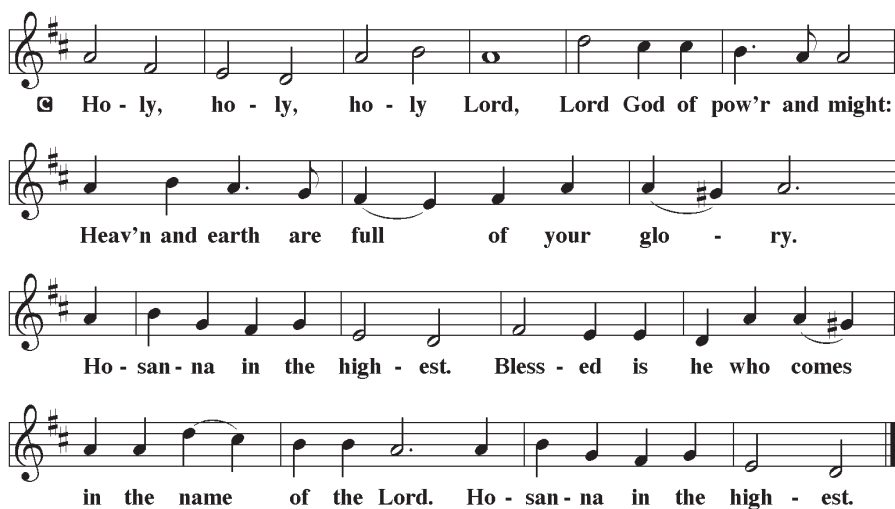
87-89

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord—for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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 hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

91

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹hallowed be thy name,

²thy kingdom come,

³thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴Give us this day our daily bread;

⁵and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,

⁷but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Holy Communion

92

If you need a gluten-free wafer or juice, please hold up your index finger in front of you as the server approaches you at the rail.



☒ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev - 'ry - one what
 he has done. Let ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re -
 joice and proud - ly bear his name. He re - calls his prom - is -
 es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his—through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Postlude: “Open Now the Gates of Beauty” arr. Mark Rippe

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.

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Memorial Day 2025

Tomorrow, May 26th, is Memorial Day. The church office will be closed for the day.

VBS 2025—Mary, Martha, and Many Faithful Women Registration Deadline June 8

VBS will start on Friday, **June 20, 5:30–8pm**. Saturday classes will meet 9:30am–3pm. On Sunday, students should be in the music room at 10:15 to practice songs. After lunch in the fellowship hall, students will meet for sessions until 3pm. The weekend will wrap up with an ice cream social for all those participating in VBS.

Registration forms are available at each entrance of the sanctuary. You may put them in the offering plate or give them to Kara Burnett or Lauren Holland.

If you would like to help with VBS, please contact Kara at 704-239-7614; karaelizabeth629@gmail.com, or Lauren at 980-234-2907; Laurenelio9@gmail.com.

<https://stpaulslutheran.church/vbs2025>

We Need Your Help!

Attic “Clean Out” Day—Saturday, June 7th, 8am – Until

Please mark your calendars to help clean out the attic space in preparation for the Capital Improvement project. **If you have anything stored in the attic, please be in attendance so that these items will be kept and stored properly.**

We will have a dumpster on-site Saturday morning to dispose of all items in the attic that are no longer used or needed. There will be wooden tables and chairs available on this day *only for congregational members*. All remaining tables and chairs will be donated to ReStore/Habitat for Humanity.

Please reach out to Bethany Whisnant at 704-640-2402, or bethanywhisnant@gmail.com before June 7th, if you have any questions (or know of any items that need to be kept, but are unable to attend this “Clean Out” day.)

The Calendar this Week

Sunday, May 25

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- College Ministry with Pastor Brian, 4pm
- No Vespers tonight

Monday, May 26, Memorial Day

- Church office is closed for Memorial Day
- Lutheran Men will meet at 6:30pm on Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27

- Morning Prayer, 8:30am, chapel
- Bible Study, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts end of year celebration, 6:30pm

Wednesday, May 28

- Morning Prayer, 8:30am, chapel
- Choir practice, 6:30pm

Thursday, May 29

- Morning Prayer, 8:30am, chapel
- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–Noon

Friday, May 30

- Morning Prayer, 8:30am, chapel
- Dance Class, 2pm

Sunday, June 1

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee meeting, 2pm
- No Vespers tonight

Lutheran Men—Memorial Day

The Lutheran Men will have their regular monthly meeting, with supper and a program, tomorrow, May 26th, at 6:30pm. The program will be presented by Matt Cottingham on his job as a K-9 officer with CMPD.

The Lamb's Bride

Find the 32 bold words from Revelation 21:9-14.

Y N V I A L S B H S L J C N P
R E C I T Y R E L O A A K I L
O V J V X I I E T S L L S A A
L E Z N D V G S P A A Y H T G
G S S E E N N E L M G U O N U
T G J I A V R E B T Z A C U E
P I E S C S A D A E F I W O S
R L R C C R O E Q I E U Q M R
E A U I S G R K H L I G H T M
C T S I P G N I D N E C S E D
I S A M T S S S K D M H I G H
O Y L E V L E W T S E B I R T
U R E W L P M N T E N O T S M
S C M A E Z A W R I T T E N T
T U W F O U N D A T I O N S H

And there came unto me one of the **seven angels** which had the seven **vials** full of the seven **last plagues**, and talked with me, saying, "Come hither, I will shew thee the **bride**, the Lamb's **wife**." And he carried me away in the **spirit** to a great and **high mountain**, and shewed me that **great city**, the **holy Jerusalem**, **descending** out of **heaven** from God, Having the **glory** of **God**: and her **light** was like unto a stone most **precious**, even like a **jasper stone**, clear as **crystal**; and had a **wall** great and high, and had twelve **gates**, and at the gates twelve angels, and names **written** thereon, which are the names of the twelve **tribes** of the children of **Israel**: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve **foundations**, and in them the **names** of the **twelve** apostles of the **Lamb**.

Recent Prayer Needs

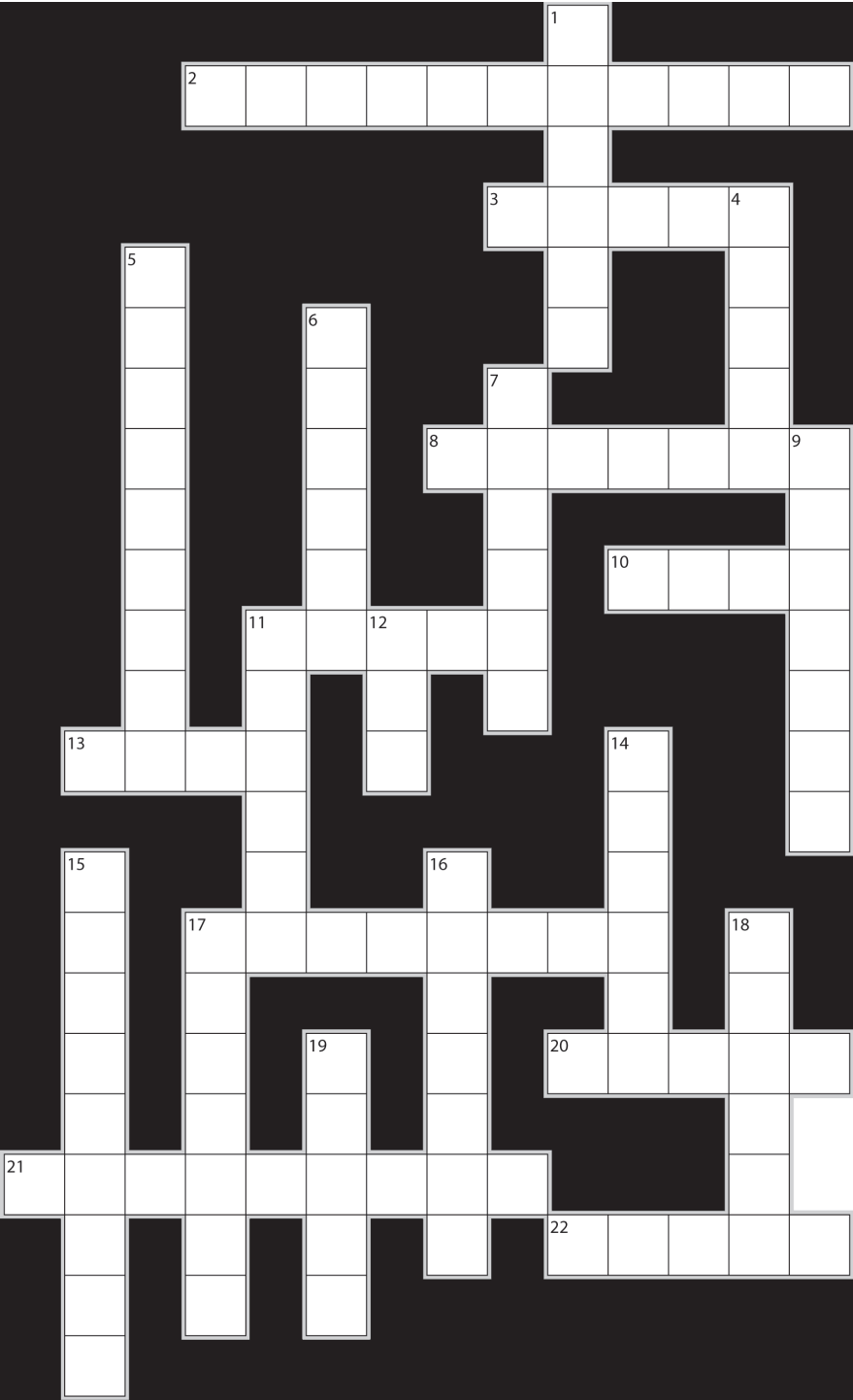
- Gina Barringer – health concerns
- Michael Brown, father of Zack Brown – health concerns
- Marvin Burnett, father of Allen Burnett – Hospice care
- Betty Camerlin – Rowan Hospital
- Jan Dolan –recovering from surgery
- Jimmy Earnhardt – health concerns
- Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Terry Eller – recovering from surgery
- D.W. Honbarger – health concerns
- Tommy Huffman – health concerns; home
- Randy Johnson – recovering from surgery
- Betty Niedens – recovering from surgery
- Melinda Redding – recovering from surgery
- George Reese – recovering from surgery
- Russ Restivo – recovering from surgery
- Jane Wilhem – Trinity Oaks, Room 14-b

For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle. This page in the bulletin is to make you aware of the most recent prayer needs. Typically, after one month on this list the name and request will have migrated to The Monthly Epistle.



**May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends
of the earth
stand in awe of him.**

Psalm 67:7



Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Acts 9:1-22; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:1-14; John 21:1-19.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

2. The disciples would experience this in the world.
3. God will _____ us.
8. Let them be glad and sing.
10. The city's lamp
11. Jesus said these things to them so they might have this.
13. May God make this shine upon us.
17. On the way, Paul and company stayed in this city some days.
20. She and her whole household were baptized.
21. John was shown this holy city coming down out of heaven.
22. It has yielded its increase.

DOWN

1. How Paul and his companions went to their destination
4. How many angels did John see?
5. In a vision, a man told Paul to go there.
6. Let the peoples do this.
7. The holy city had a radiance like this stone.
9. Paul's company went outside the city gate to pray on this day.
11. Paul concluded that he was to go to the province and do what with the gospel?
12. Do this so that you may receive.
14. God judges with...
15. The hour was coming when the disciples would be...
16. Jesus often spoke in these.
17. One of the angels had a bowl filled with...
18. John was carried away in the...
19. Jesus told the disciples to take this.

Stats

General Fund Offering (5/18).....	\$5,622
Other Offering (5/18)	\$5,106
Sunday School Attendance (5/18)	60
Worship Attendance (5/18)	188

Children's Change Collection

Last Sunday: \$100.50 Total \$1,094.50

In the last two+ years, they have collected
\$18,521.12 for missions.

During the second quarter of 2025, the children's change
collections which will benefit The Table Ministry.

The total collected for Lutherans for Life
during the first quarter of the year was \$1,951.00.

In 2024, our children collected for the following:

- Dept. of Lutheran Studies, Gordon-Conwell – \$1,929.50
 - Lutherans for Life – \$1,976.00
 - St. Paul Lutheran Seminary – \$1,869.50
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries – \$1,945.12

In 2023, they collected for the following missions and ministries:

- Lutherans for Life – \$1,855
- Spiritual Orphans Network – \$1,981
- St. Paul Lutheran Seminary – \$2,019
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries – \$1,901

Blood Drive Results

Thirty-five units of blood were collected at the blood drive on Monday, May 19th. Thanks to all who were able to give “the gift of life.” These 35 units can be used to help as many as 105 persons needing a transfusion. More details will be in the June Epistle.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mark Ryman, Pastor
pastor@stpaulslutheran.church

Brian Lord, Associate Pastor
wingman@stpaulslutheran.church

Pamela Cottingham, Secretary
secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Eric Barringer, Council President
ebarringer@bellsouth.net

John Brock, Music Director
splcmusicalisbury@gmail.com

Johnsie Taylor, Organist
jtaylor783@aol.com

Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, abarringer@bellsouth.net

Next weeks lessons: Acts 1:12–26; Psalm 133; Revelation 22:1–20; John 17:20–26

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