

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## Sunday Worship Service Bulletin



**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

### **Introduction**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

## Welcome

### Prelude: If Thou Art Near – Bach

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter, and our joy.

**ALL: Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## Hymn: Baptized in Water – ELW 456



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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## Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the book of Acts.

<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.

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31**

Reader: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**ALL: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!  
May your hearts live forever!**

Reader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**ALL: For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

Reader: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,  
shall kneel before the LORD.

**ALL: Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

Reader: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from the first letter of John.

<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.

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**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 the Lord

**ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman**

**Hymn of the Day: Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death – ELW 452**



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 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.**



## Prayers of Intercession

*Please respond to each invocation:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please be seated.*

### OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.

Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed through life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated

## Hymn: 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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## Offering Prayer

Risen One,

*all recite together*

**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

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

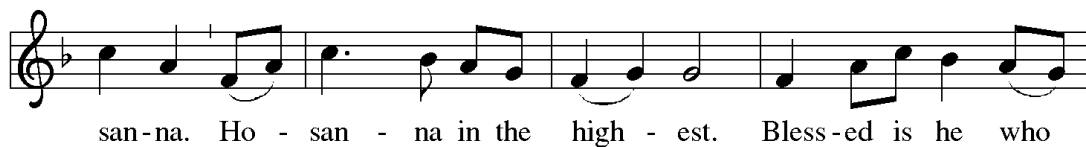
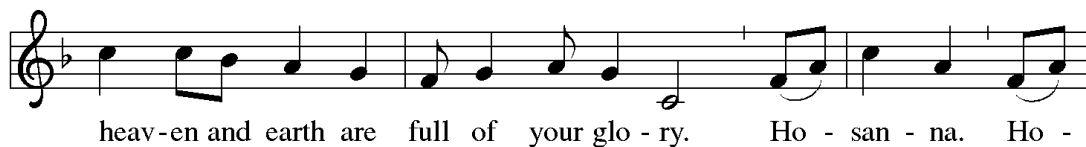
**R/. And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**R/. We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R/. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**





Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## Lord's Prayer

**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

*We believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus. In this sacrament we are invited to have a personal experience of Christ's presence. This is the Lord's table. All who desire to be in relationship with Christ are welcome to receive.*

We receive communion using bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. They are in a separate plastic wrap marked "gluten free." For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

A modern paraphrase of the Lamb of God

## In This Feast of Love

*Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä*

1 In this feast of love, in this  
2 In this bread and wine, in this  
3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

*pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le*

feast of love, Lord, you share your  
bread and wine, you have prom - ised,  
peace, O Lord; fill us with the

*it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*

blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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# HYMN: There in God's Garden – ELW 342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

# God Is Love

God is love. God is love; let us love one an -

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody in the upper staff begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'God is love.' are aligned under the first four notes. The melody continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. The lyrics 'God is love; let us love one an -' are aligned under these notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats. The melody in the upper staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'oth-er as God first loved us.' are aligned under these notes. The melody continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. The lyrics 'God is love.' are aligned under these notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

God is love. God is love.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats. The melody in the upper staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. The lyrics 'God is love.' are aligned under these notes. The melody continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5. The lyrics 'God is love.' are aligned under these notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

Text: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, based on 1 John 4:11, 16, 19  
Music: GOD IS LOVE, Mark Mummert  
Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

## **TABLE BLESSING**

+May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
heal you, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

### **Prayer after Communion**

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.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **Announcements:**

#### **Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

**Amen.**

# Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! ELW 377



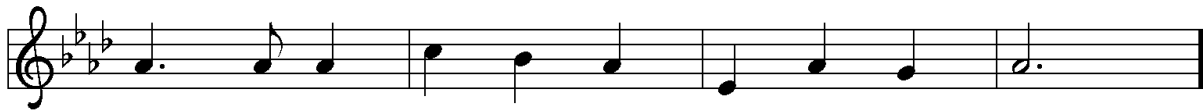
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



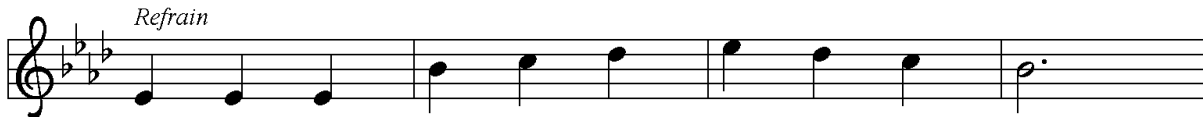
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



*Refrain*  
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Announcements:**

**Church Women United** May Friendship Program will be Friday May 3, at Dedicated Senior Medical Center on 855 S. Highland Ave, Clearwater. This is on the southeast corner of Highland and Druid Rd. Registration: 10:30; Program: 11:00; Lunch: 12:00. The program will be a Bible Study on "Mercy" based on Matthew 5:7 as well as a presentation by the medical center staff. Dedicated Senior Medical Center is a family-owned primary and specialty care practice committed to providing Medicare-eligible seniors greater access to quality healthcare. All are welcome. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to provide us with a general idea of how many people will stay for lunch. Phyllis Berlage, CWU President

**Our last day for Sunday Worship** in this building is May 12, Mother's Day. The theme of our day will be **With Faith, Moving On**. We will have a beautiful liturgical celebration followed by a catered lunch in Kinports Hall. We will send a formal announcement to the congregation this week with a process for you to sign up for the lunch. You are welcome to invite anyone you think would like to be part of this celebration. However, we do need a count for the lunch. We will let you know what the approximate cost of the lunch will be, and we will have a basket in the hall for donations to help offset the cost. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex

The **Funeral for Charlie Christ** will be on Saturday, May 18 at 2:30. There will be a meal immediately after the service. All are welcome to attend. Please sign up in the Narthex

Help is needed for **Sunday Fellowship**. Please volunteer for a Sunday to set up or clean up. Many volunteers make light work for everyone. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. For information on what this involves please see/call Phyllis Berlage, Diane Harrop, Coordinators, or Susan Murray, Gretchen Bush. After Sunday church service is an ideal time for us to show you what this involves.

## **St. Pete Pride - June 2024**

Although St. Pete Pride Month seems far away in our calendars, plans have been underway for months for us to participate in 3 days of events this year with St. Mark and Trinity Lutheran Churches. If you would like to be part of our witness to the LGBTQIA community, please sign up in the Narthex. Tee shirts for these events must be ordered before April 15.

**Lutheran Services of Florida** is collecting new items for new mothers and babies for Mother's Day. Diapers and formula are at the top of the list of needs.

**Wednesday Contemplative Worship – Summer Schedule.**

We will gather at St. John's on Wednesday evenings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday throughout the summer. See the dates below and mark your calendars!



## **St. Paul's Spirituality Center**

*an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

### **Wednesday Contemplative Worship Summer 2024**

During the summer we will gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month for an hour of sung contemplative prayer.

Mark your calendars today!

**May 8, May 22**

**June 12, June 26**

**July 10, July 24**

**August 14, August 28**



We are now gathering at  
St. John's Episcopal Church - 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764

St. Paul's Spirituality Center  
*an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church*



Taizé Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit*

Wednesday, May 8 - 7:15 PM

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church  
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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## A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

**407 S. Saturn Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33755  
727- 446-7718**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.*

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

St. Paul's Email: [office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)

St. Paul's Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>



**To reach Pastor Anne**  
[pastoranneharman@gmail.com](mailto:pastoranneharman@gmail.com)

