

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ MAY 5, 2024



Just as I have loved you, you
also should love one another.

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's abundant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

#367

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.**

Hymn of Praise

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”

#863 vs. 1 - 3

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**O God, 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.**

please be seated

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" #863 vs. 4-5

Gospel

John 15:9 - 17

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

please be seated
Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit
Hymn of the Day

“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

#742

please be seated
Blessing of Graduates

Dear friends: Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduating from high school is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor those who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

Graduates, please come forward as your names are read: Owen Rehmer and Camille Schear.

At this time of celebration and transition, hear these words from Holy Scripture.

Jeremiah 29:11–14a

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Dear graduates: We are delighted to honor you as you graduate! We want you to know that, wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

We also know that you weren't alone in this journey, and so we invite your parents to come forward and join you in this time of blessing.

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon these young men and women. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, to each of these graduates the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever. **Amen.**

Parents are invited to place a hand on their children's head or shoulder.

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

#362 vs. 1 & 8

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....Risen One, 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

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

At the Altar

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Our first table for Holy Communion this morning will be for those who do not wish to climb the stairs. Please watch for direction from the ushers.

Communion Hymns

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

#836

“We Are Called”

#720

“Christ, Be Our Light”

#715

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....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. **Amen.**

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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.

Sending Hymn

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

#389

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

"CHRIST IS ALIVE, ALLELUIA"



Welcome: Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9). One way we do that is to gather in Christian community. Welcome, beloved ones!

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Jon Beckman, Rodger Luetjen, Eugene Oelrichs, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, Dewey Jobe, Judy Smith, Paul Kelly, Renee Weller, Gordon Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Rhonda Haluptzok (mother of Phil Haluptzok), Dustin Woods, Alexis Harrington, Liz Smart, Denny & Pam Karl (friends of Melisa Balke), Josephine Heimsoth, Don Gibbs, Melvin Oelrichs (grandpa of Nicholas Dieckman), Art Heimsoth, Dorothy Brown (mother of Bob Brown), Cliff Eckhoff, Averi Kroenke, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Donna Allen (mother of Adrienn Dieckman), Ken Jenson (friend of Connie Gerken), Jamie Simon, Dena Sikoutris, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Annie Bright, Kiley Simon (friend of Jenna Nash), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Ronnie Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Marlin Lackas (brother-in-law of Paul Fuelling), Bill Hampton, and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Our **Nursing Home:** Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*. Kathy Hallauer: *Loving Arms*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: ENS David M. Gardner (son of Pam Balke), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Cpt. Joseph Strathman.



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Graduates: Today we will be honoring our graduating seniors during the worship service. One Stitch At A Time will be gifting each of them with a handmade quilt. We invite you to come give thanks for their involvement at St. Paul's, and bless them for the next step in their journey.

Day-Care: The Day-Care committee will meet after worship **today**.



One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, **May 6th** at 9:00am in the church basement.

LBPS: Little Blessing Preschool will be in session on Tuesday, **May 7th** and Wednesday, **May 18th** from 8:00am until 11:15pm in the church basement.



Council: The Council will meet on Tuesday, **May 7th** at 7:00pm.

Planning: The Worship & Music Committee will meet on Wednesday, **May 8th** at 3:30pm.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **May 9th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to help you with your health care needs.

~ * ~ **IN OUR COMMUNITY** ~ * ~

Picnic n' Pickin in the Park: The Cole Camp Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a family friendly event on Sunday afternoon and evening, **May 19th**, from 2:30pm – 7:00pm at the Ezekial Williams Park. Free admission as this is Cole Camp Chamber's gift to the community. Two bluegrass bands will be featured throughout the afternoon – Potters Wheel and Hensley Boys, plus a jam session at 6 pm. Food & drink concessions will be available for purchase. Bring your lawn chair. No alcohol, please. Bluegrass music provides all the spirit that you need!



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, May 5:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar
	AW	Day-care committee Meeting
	AW	Youth Gathering Meeting
Monday, May 6:	9:00am	Sewing
Tuesday, May 7:	8:00am	LBPS
	7:00pm	Council
Wednesday, May 8:	8:00am	LBPS
	3:30pm	Worship & Music
Thursday, May 9:	8:00am	BCHD
Saturday, May 11:	5:30pm	Casual Worship
Sunday, May 12:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
		Happy Mother's Day



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

May 12	Mother's Day
May 19	LBPS Moving Up Ceremony
May 19	Last Day of Sunday School and Confirmation
June 2	Confirmation Sunday

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Lois Viebrock
Pianist Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild Shirley Cash & Norma Schlesselman
Ushers Melinda Strathman, Assistant Head Usher
..... Nicholas Dieckman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman & Steve Triplett



Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 7, 2024

Assisting Minister Melisa Balke
Communion Assistants At the Altar
Reader Shirley Cash
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes Grady Elliott & Ben Goosen
Flowers Teresa Viebrock



Ascension of our Lord ~ May 12, 2024

Assisting Minister Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Erin Oelrichs & Hannah Schweitzer
Reader Logan Jackson
Children's Sermon Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
Acolytes Miranda Gerken & Kaelyn Keith
Flowers Luther League (Mother's Day)