



THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
MAY 1, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

In light of Christ's eternal victory, we should expect to see change in our lives. For example, although they were called to be fishers of men, in today's Gospel, the disciples learned that they needed to listen to their Lord even when fishing for fish. Change for Peter would mean moving from regretting his past (where he denied his Lord) to feeding Christ's flock. And for Saul (Paul), Christ's eternal, living presence would mean the change from persecuting Christians to proclaiming Christ before Gentiles and kings. The heavenly host in the Reading from Revelation sing their eternal songs of praise to the Lamb of God. How might our risen Lord's eternal victory over sin and evil change us so that our voices echo their praises already here in time?

Prelude

Processional Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

#525 sts. 1, 3-5

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

Text (sts. 1, 3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4):

Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

P We have come to worship our great God, but in our sinful condition, our hearts are far from Him.

We pause to remember our sins before our righteous Heavenly Father...

P Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

C I confess to You, heavenly Father, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thoughts, words, and actions. I am unable to save myself, to turn from my errors, and to atone for my sins. I plead to God for grace and mercy.

P By the grace of God, there is One who is worthy to take our prayers for forgiveness to God's throne of grace. Jesus Christ alone is worthy. He is God's own Lamb and has ransomed us from our sins by dying for us and rising in glory. He declares us to be saints, able to go to God in all confidence, offering our prayers for ourselves, for one another, and for all people. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through Your son's sacrifice for us, You made us worthy to approach You in confident faith.

C Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to give You all praise each day in what we think, say, and do;

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

✠ The Conversion of Saul ✠

Acts 9:1-22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem – Celebration Ringers "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" arr. B. Kinyon

Second Reading ✠ The Scroll and the Lamb ✠ *Revelation 5:8-14*

⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel ✠ Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples ✠ *John 21:1-19*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Today our Confession of Faith will be spoken by our confirmands during the Rite of Confirmation.

Sermon Hymn “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” #812

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.</p> | <p>3 Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and pow’r divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever Thine.</p> |
| <p>2 “Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“To be exalted thus!”
“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply,
“For He was slain for us!”</p> | <p>4 Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of Him who sits upon the throne
And to adore the Lamb.</p> |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

Today’s Message: ✠ The Presentation of our Confirmands’ Essays ✠

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. On-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Confirmation Hymn “Let Me Be Thine Forever” #689

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Let me be Thine forever,
My faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never
Nor wander from Thy Word.</p> | <p>Lord, do not let me waver,
But give me steadfastness,
And for such grace forever
Thy holy name I’ll bless.</p> |
|---|---|

2 Lord Jesus, my salvation,
My light, my life divine,
My only consolation,
O make me wholly Thine!
For Thou hast dearly bought me
With blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since Thou hast sought me,
Eternal life obtain.

3 And Thou, O Holy Spirit,
My comforter and guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit
I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing
Whom I have known by faith.
Give me Thy constant blessing
And grant a Christian death.

*Text: tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 1): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–92; (sts. 2–3): Gesang-Büchlein, 1688, Rudolstadt
Text: Public domain*

✠ The Rite of Confirmation ✠

P Beloved in the Lord...

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, 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.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Confirmation Blessing

Stand

Prayers for the Confirmands

- P** Go in His ☩ peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Anthem – Celebration Ringers

“Rejoice and Sing!”

D. Wagner

☩ SACRAMENT ☩

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

The Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray together as He taught us,
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

#687

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity! | Thou, the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day. |
| 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend,
O defend us to the end! | 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share. |
| 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife. | 5 Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv’n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n. |

Text: Mary F. Maude, 1819–1913

Text: Public domain

“Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake”

#688

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake,
“All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,
Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide,
Take My example for your guide. | 4 “I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your soul’s salvation,
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,
From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav’nly goal.” |
| 2 “I am the light, I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you must sojourn here below. | 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suff’ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain
The crown of heav’nly life obtain. |
| 3 “My heart abounds in lowliness,
My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express,
With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,
To God I yield, on Him I call. | |

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5):

Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und

Lobgesänge, 1695

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks that You have strengthened us with the body and blood of Your Son, who alone is worthy of worship and praise.

C **Use our hearts and minds, and all the gifts and abilities You've given us to demonstrate His love each day until we see Him in glory face-to-face;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Recessional Hymn

“The Lamb”

#547

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! **Refrain**

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

**ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes
me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Refrain

5 He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

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Postlude

Announcements & Notes:

Ladies Guild – There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the narthex for the meeting and Potluck on Tuesday, May 17th. You'll see that you're asked to sign up to bring a main dish, salad or dessert.

Two requests from Operation Barnabas:

First, they're looking for 1 or 2 people who would like to send cards and Thank You notes to veterans of St. Paul. The pay is a good feeling! If interested, talk to Rich Przybycien at (708) 425-9525.

Also, Rich will be in the narthex to tell you how you can help provide items to be sent as care packages to those who serve.

The "National Association of Letter Carriers" food drive will return this year for the first time since 2019, and our Faith in Action Food Pantry will again be able to benefit from it. The food drive will be on May 14th, and FIA needs volunteers that day to help pick up food, and also throughout the week to sort and mark and shelve the food. Please talk to Mike Will for details on how you can help.

Please remind your family, friends to leave a bag of nonperishable food by their mailbox on Saturday, May 14, and their letter carrier will handle the rest! And as always, you may also bring a bag to church and drop it off at the Timothy Room.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Pianist: Diane Johannes

Vocalist: Sue Marcinkowski

Celebration Ringers Director: Martha Moeller

Altar Flowers: Confirmation Class

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Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Gleason
Dawn McNicholas	Janet Varnagis
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
The Giacobbe Children	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Julie & Larry Gurga
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Warren Miller	Mark Landstrom
Denise Murray	Roy Hodgeman

We pray for those who grieve

For Mark Patri and all the family and friends of his wife Donna, for whom we've been praying, called home to heaven on Tuesday, April 26.

We pray for the congregation of Faith

Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn, which will be installing Rev. Dean Pittelko as their pastor in a special service this afternoon at 3:00

Please remember our Confirmands in your prayers:

- ✠ Emily Laura Ayala
- ✠ Wyatt Schaffer Jackson
- ✠ Jonathon Matthew Rose

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Eric Kessler	Barb & Emily Feehan
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessler
Shirley Fairchild	Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer	Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Judy Collins	Phyllis Hicks
Maryann Krieg (Wilke)	Katherine Zeleny
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Monica Iversen
Cathy Becker	Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Mary Kay Rafidi	Mary Ann Rafidi
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Debbie Guarascio	Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel	Frank Coglinase
Nora Maculitis	Gene Wawrzynikowski
Kimberly Rooney	Rhonda Scott
Robert Gonzalez	Theresa Kosteck
Pam Kirk	Vicki Warren
Jenny Bond	Pastor Mark Willig