



THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
RITES OF FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION  
MAY 5, 2024

---

---

***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040  
Pastor John Moeller

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)  
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

---

---

## As We Gather

As God the Father loved His Son Jesus, Jesus has proven how much He loves us and all people by making a home for us with Him in the Father's love. So as we are now blessed to live in God's love through His gift of faith, we keep His commandments, because the more fully we understand how much God loves us, the more we realize that living according to His commandments isn't burdensome, it's a joy, because Jesus' Word of promise fills us with joy and enables us to love others the way God loves us. Alleluia!

## Prelude

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

J. C. Bach

## Opening Hymn

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

#791

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 All people that on earth do dwell,<br>Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.<br>Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;<br>Come ye before Him and rejoice. | Praise, laud, and bless His name always,<br>For it is seemly so to do.  |
| 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;<br>Without our aid He did us make.<br>We are His folk, He doth us feed,<br>And for His sheep He doth us take.               | 4 For why? The Lord our God is good:<br>His mercy is forever sure.<br>His truth at all times firmly stood<br>And shall from age to age endure.  |
| 3 O enter then His gates with praise;<br>Approach with joy His courts unto.   | △ 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,<br>The God whom heav'n and earth adore,<br>From us and from the angel host<br>Be praise and glory evermore. |

*Text: Public domain*

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

**P** Praise the LORD!

**C** Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**P** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**C** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C** whose hope is in the LORD his God.

**P** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

**C** Praise the LORD!

## Confession and Absolution

**P** But even as we praise our Gracious God, we continue to live in opposition to His will for us. So let us now confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

**C** Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. By nature, we are stained by sin. Each day we have done things we ought not to have done and have not lived according to Your will.

We have not seen others in the loving way that You see them, and have not always been ready to care or quick to help. Indeed, we deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. But trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our hope is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts and lives, lead us in the ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

**P** God is kind and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our prayers. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

## ✠ Word ✠

### Introit

*Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

**P** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

**C** Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

**P** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**C** who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

**P** Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray together.

**C** Risen and ascended Lord, while we were still in our sins, You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another and to go out into the world to bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### First Reading

✠ The Holy Spirit Comes to the Gentiles ✠

*Acts 10:34-48*

<sup>34</sup>Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

<sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” <sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle

✠ Born of God ✠

*1 John 5:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Choir Anthem of Praise

“Let's Sing about God's Love”

N. Sleeth

### Holy Gospel

✠ Love One Another ✠

*John 15:9-17*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

• Today during the Rite of Confirmation, the Apostle’s Creed will be spoken as our Confession of Faith.

**Sermon Hymn**

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

#707

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways<br/>To keep His statutes still!<br/>Oh, that my God would grant me grace<br/>To know and do His will!</p> <p>2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word<br/>And make my heart sincere;<br/>Let sin have no dominion, Lord,<br/>But keep my conscience clear.</p> | <p>3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,<br/>A stricter watch to keep;<br/>And should I e'er forget Thy way,<br/>Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.</p> <p>4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—<br/>'Tis a delightful road—<br/>Nor let my head or heart or hands<br/>Offend against my God.</p> |
|---|--|

*Text: Public domain***Sermon and Reading of Confirmand's Essay****Prayer of the Church**

## ✠ The Rite of First Communion ✠

## ✠ The Rite of Confirmation ✠

*LSB p. 272*

**Offering**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). For information about regular electronic giving, please talk with Sandy in the church office.*

**Confirmation Hymn**

"Let Me Be Thine Forever"

#689

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Let me be Thine forever,<br/>My faithful God and Lord;<br/>Let me forsake Thee never<br/>Nor wander from Thy Word.<br/>Lord, do not let me waver,<br/>But give me steadfastness,<br/>And for such grace forever<br/>Thy holy name I'll bless.</p> <p>2 Lord Jesus, my salvation,<br/>My light, my life divine,<br/>My only consolation,<br/>O make me wholly Thine!</p> | <p>For Thou hast dearly bought me<br/>With blood and bitter pain.<br/>Let me, since Thou hast sought me,<br/>Eternal life obtain.</p> <p>3 And Thou, O Holy Spirit,<br/>My comforter and guide,<br/>Grant that in Jesus' merit<br/>I always may confide,<br/>Him to the end confessing<br/>Whom I have known by faith.<br/>Give me Thy constant blessing<br/>And grant a Christian death.</p> |
|--|---|

*Text: Public domain*

## A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion are indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of them. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

### ✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

#### 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

#### Words of Our Lord

#### Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

#### Pax Domini

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

### ✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

#### Hymn

"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

# 623

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray<br>That we may feast on You today;<br>Beneath these forms of bread and wine<br>Enrich us with Your grace divine.         | 3 | By faith Your Word has made us bold<br>To seize the gift of love retold;<br>All that You are we here receive,<br>And all we are to You we give. |
| 2 | Give us, who share this wondrous food,<br>Your body broken and Your blood,<br>The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,<br>The certain joys of heirs of heav'n. | 4 | One bread, one cup, one body, we,<br>Rejoicing in our unity,<br>Proclaim Your love until You come<br>To bring Your scattered loved ones home.   |

5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
O keep us steadfast till that day

When each will be Your welcomed guest  
In heaven's high and holy feast.

*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

#842

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory,  
For Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity,  
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,  
So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted;  
Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,  
Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty  
Held in solemn trust will be.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,  
King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion,  
Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling,  
By Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race:  
By Your praying, by Your willing  
That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
Here on earth Your will be done.

*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn

“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!

2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest  
They who find in Thee their rest!  
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend,  
O defend us to the end!

3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!  
Shield us through our earthly strife.

Thou, the life, the truth, the way,  
Guide us to the realms of day.

4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep  
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;  
Safe alone beneath Thy care,  
Let us all Thy goodness share.

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: Public domain*

### 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!

### Closing Hymn

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

#845

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Where charity and love prevail<br>There God is ever found;<br>Brought here together by Christ’s love<br>By love are we thus bound. | 4 Let strife among us be unknown;<br>Let all contention cease;<br>Be God’s the glory that we seek;<br>Be ours His holy peace. |
| 2 With grateful joy and holy fear<br>His charity we learn;<br>Let us with heart and mind and soul<br>Now love Him in return.         | 5 Let us recall that in our midst<br>Dwells Christ, His only Son;<br>As members of His body joined<br>We are in Him made one. |
| 3 Forgive we now each other’s faults<br>As we our faults confess,<br>And let us love each other well<br>In Christian holiness.       | 6 For love excludes no race or clan<br>That names the Savior’s name;<br>His family embraces all<br>Whose Father is the same.  |

*Text: © 1960 World Library Publications.  
Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

### Postlude

“Sinfonia”

J. S. Bach







## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

**Organist:** Ruth Sievers  
**Choir:** St. Paul Adult Choir  
**Lector:** Audrey Mitchell  
**Altar Care:** Sue Lilja

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.



### **Announcements & Notes:**

***Because today is Confirmation Sunday, we have something to celebrate, so EVERYONE is invited to a reception that has been planned for them after this worship service in the Timothy room. Please come and welcome them and their families! Bible Class will not meet. We thank the Board of Evangelism – Parish Ed for all their hard work and planning for this event.***

***The USPS National Association of Letter Carriers food drive ‘Stamp Out Hunger’ is next Saturday! Our Faith in Action Food Pantry will benefit from the collection. . The pantry needs drivers that day to pick-up and deliver groceries to St. Paul, and they will also need volunteers to sort and mark cans and boxes throughout the week.***

***The Timothy Room has been reserved for them for the next couple of weeks. Please contact Debbie or Mike Will or leave your name and number with the church office if you can help. If you would prefer, you may also bring a bag of non-perishable food items to church and drop it off here as always.***

***The next Voters’ Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.***

***ALL St. Paul women are invited to attend the POTLUCK SUPPER and evening meeting of the Ladies Guild on Tuesday evening, May 28, beginning at 6 pm in the Timothy Room. On the sheet outside the church office, please sign up both for attendance and a food dish to share. The meeting will honor both Pastor and Martha Moeller, who will be leaving us after Pastor's retirement in July.***

***Friday Evening Bible Study has begun watching and discussing season 4 of “The Chosen!” You’re always invited to join them at 6:30 pm in the Timothy Room.***

***Sunday morning Adult Bible Study resumes next Sunday at 10:30, probably meeting in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom because of the Food Drive. Please join us!***

***Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren’t able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is Arthur Gerth, 4037 West 91<sup>st</sup> Place, Oak Lawn, IL 60453***

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

Frank Laos  
Sandy Barry  
Dave Purdy  
Judy Anderson  
Carl Hoppe  
Amanda Greene  
Janice Janiszewski  
Dorothy Pavella  
Vic & Marty Both  
George Oberg  
Rich & Jan Przybycien  
Bill Volk  
Arthur Gerth  
Ingrid Lesko  
Jan Briede  
Roy Hodgeman  
Katherine Hice  
Kurt Seehofer  
Flora Jones  
Graham Jackson  
Kevin Hickey  
Gloria Meyer  
Elaine Lebron  
Melva Smith  
Delores Stegemann  
Carol Small  
Mike Degidio  
Norma Silinski  
Beverly Sellers  
Betty Beegle  
Warren Miller  
Delphine Cherry  
Ron Klingensmith  
Louis Frank  
Betty Kruckow

Herta Iversen  
Loretta Frank  
George Dodaro, Sr.  
Barbara Prendergast  
Nancy Bundley  
Rosa Richardson  
Sarah Weber

**Please pray for these friends and family of our members:**

Roberta & Carlos Owens  
Dorothy Kroll  
Emily Feehan  
LeRoy Bitner  
Georgiana Easton  
Jackie Plichta  
Patricia Paulsen  
Ken Kruckow  
Janet Trierweiler  
Vicki Warren  
Rhonda Scott  
Michelle Mitchell  
Al Silinski  
Pam Palhegyi  
Carol Milazzo  
Rich Huscher  
The Lamberth Family  
Jerry Gross  
Louise Hrynkow  
Gloria Folsom  
Mary Beth Pasqua  
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  
Vern Howe  
Shawn Harland  
Ann Herold  
Barb Potter  
Wayne Volk  
Lance Barrientos  
Linda Shuman  
Doris Potts  
Doreen Holford  
Judy Collins  
Luke Pajowski  
Phyllis Hicks  
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.  
Cathy Becker  
Ken Matz  
Jean & Al Zirbel  
Carol Loecherbach  
Charley Heitz  
Sophia Salus  
Justin & Ashley Fasel  
Frank Coglina  
Gene Wawrzynkowski

Kimberly Rooney  
Evelyn & Ron Konieski  
Audrey Metes  
Richard DeSaga  
Ken Went  
Margaret Lundgreen  
Julie King  
Sharon Bryant  
Anika Seger  
Monica Kato  
Herb Kleeman  
Debra Kleeman  
Sarah Skelton  
Barbara Apt  
Bob & Gloria Freeman  
Carrie Aspan  
Lisa Anglin  
Devon Apt  
Tristan Ferry  
Hillary Pittelko  
Sue Berg  
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips  
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki  
Katherine Zeleny  
Elmo Schultz  
Jose Urena  
Mike Feyerer  
Edward Cyga  
Jessica Nigrelli  
Elaine & Paul Horan  
Ted Gross  
Avery Kenny  
Ray Jackson  
The DeAngelis Family  
Lauren Rossetti  
George Dodaro, Sr.  
Daniel Musser  
Rudy DeAngelis  
Bob Litz

***We give thanks to God:***

- Jan and Rich Przybycien celebrate their 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Geraldine Keipert celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- For our Confirmation Students

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