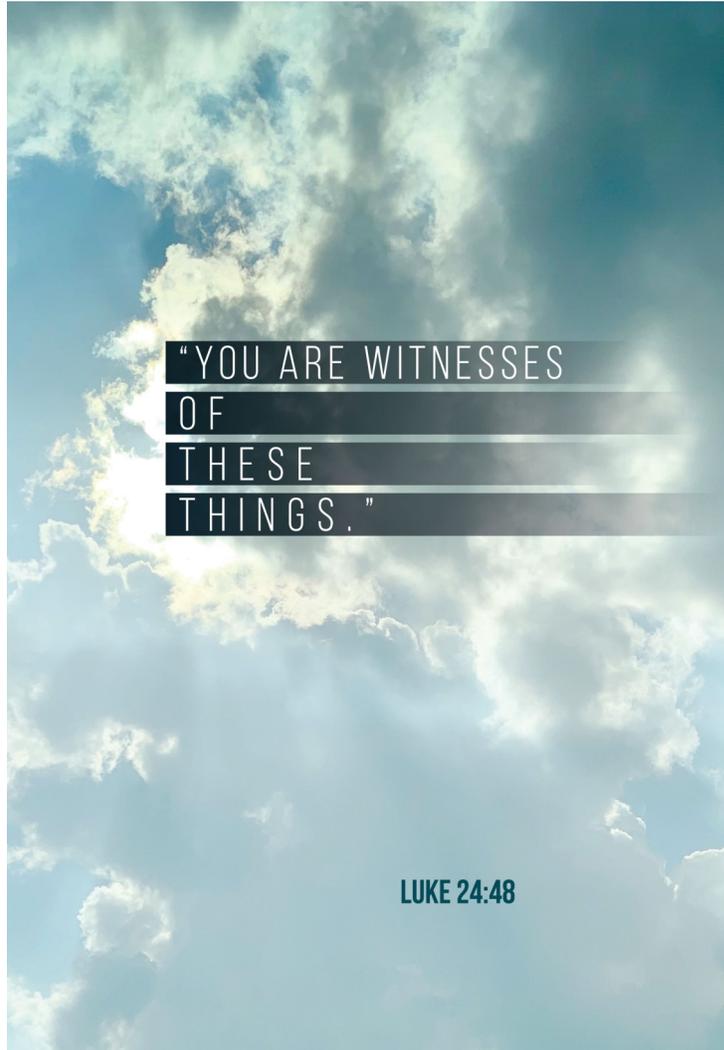




St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Pastor*
Jean McHenry (5 p.m.);
Sherise Davis (9 a.m.), *Organists*
April 17 & 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter



Next weekend's readings:
Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, www.stpaulg.org, and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

POB 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

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Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fax: 979-968-6950 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Monday 1 - 5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.;

Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

e-mail: stpaul@cvctx.com Web Page: www.stpaulg.org

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Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship!
- + Offerings may be placed in the lock box as you leave; mailed to P O Box 567, LG; placed in the mail slot in the office door, or as always, you may give online. Thank you for supporting the ministries at St Paul!
- + All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to use whatever bread or crackers and wine or juice you have on hand. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share whatever elements we have available.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Stand if able)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Sit)

Children's Word

WORD

Reading Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand if able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Sit)

Sermon

Pastor Candis O'Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn ELW 635 "We Walk by Faith" vs. 1, 3, 5



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none c'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Nicene Creed *(Sunday only)*

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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Especially we pray for all affected by the COVID virus and for the family of Bennie Hanath, Anita, Annette, Annie, Art, Barbara, Barnell, Pastor Bill, Brooke, Chantel, Clarence, Conway, David, Delores, Diana, Don, Doris, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Eric, Evelyn, Gary, Iris, J.C., Jan, Jenelle, Jerry, JoAnne, Joe, John, Joy, Joyce, Juanita, Judy, Kay, Kevin, Larry, Leon, Liz, Mae Dene, Marcia, Megan, Nellie, Nick, Oliver, Peggy, Phyllis, Rodney, Ryan, Sherry, Sheryl, Pastor Sid, Tami, Weslyn, Emmanuel Lutheran in Collique, Peru, and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Please place your offering in the offering plate in the Narthex as you enter or exit the Sanctuary. Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945; brought to the church office, 427 S Washington St.; You may donate online by going to our home page (www.stpaulg.org) and clicking "Donate Now." You will be directed to MyEofferings where you can register to give online, you choose the frequency of giving - you may make a one time offering or schedule when you prefer. Thank you for supporting St. Paul!

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

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

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.

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.

Communion Instructions

For safety reasons, we will stay in our pews for communion. You should have received a prepackaged communion kit before entering the Sanctuary. If you did not, ask one of the ushers for a kit. Pastor will give verbal instructions to lead us in Holy Communion.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song ELW 377 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" vs. 1, 3, 5



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,



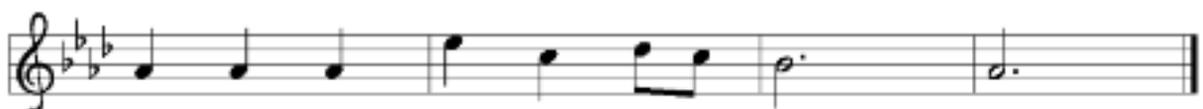
Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry;
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



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!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

5 p.m. USHERS & ALTAR GUILD: James & Sharon Elias

9 a.m. USHERS: Howard & Phyllis Bohot; **ALTAR GUILD:** _____

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Nora Friemel on her birthday, April 21, by Russ & Debbie Friemel, Ardie & Jerry Holsinger, Hertha Kruse, Anita Craft and Mannie Fritsch-Schmid.

HOSPITALIZED: David Butler @ St. David's in Austin; Edwin Votaw @ St. Mark's

WE WELCOME Weslyn Leigh Childs, daughter of Clayton and Tara (Keilers) Childs into our baptized membership. Weslyn's sponsors are Toni Keilers, Casey and Shelbi Lange.

OUR CHRISTIAN CONDOLENCES to the family of Amalia Woolf, on the death of her brother, Bennie Hanath. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on him.

INTERESTED IN SERVING as a Eucharistic Minister? Once a month, you would bring communion to some of our homebound, so the time commitment is minimal. In order to keep our homebound safe, we ask that all of our Eucharistic Ministers have their COVID vaccines. Anyone interested should talk with Pastor Candy **after church this morning.**

BLOOD DRIVE @ THE KC HALL is Wednesday, April 21 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. In an effort to maintain social distancing, appointments are required. Every donation will be tested for COVID-19 Antibodies. Call 512-206-1316 to sign up, eat prior to donating and bring your photo ID. There will also be a sign up sheet for the drive on Wednesday, June 23.

"LWR QUILTS - HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!" We are tacking (tying) quilts Tuesday, April 20. We begin at 8 a.m. and continue till noon in the Fellowship Hall. We provide On-The-Job Training – No experience necessary!! We pin hems in the quilt, some sew hems in with the machines, some tie knots in the quilts, some can iron fabric for cutting into squares, and most importantly we all enjoy good fellowship and conversation. This is the 'Tacky Tuesday' Group!

CONFIRMATION IS MAY 2! Throughout the pandemic, Pastor Candy or Caleb met with the 7th and 8th grade confirmation students in person or via Zoom. We did not hold a confirmation service in 2020, so please join us Sunday, May 2 when the 8th grade class of 2020, Brock Loehr, Ella Pineda, and Brigham Kelley; & the 2021 8th grade class, Grayson Bage and Hunter Sabo affirm their faith.

<p>SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Eucharistic Ministers Meeting w/ Pastor Candy 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>MONDAY: 9:00 AM Second Chance Clean Up</p> <p>TUESDAY: 8:00 AM LWR Quilters 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 9:00 AM Blood Drive @ KC Hall 6:00 PM Confirmation Class</p> <p>SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship</p> <p>SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Adult Sunday School</p>

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

RISE	JESUS	PEACE	FISH	WITNESSES
GHOST	FRIGHTENED	FLESH	FEET	DEAD
BONES	DOUBTS	ATE	HANDS	TOUCH