

"And if I go
and prepare a place for you,
I will come again
and will take you to myself,



so that where I am,
there you may be also."

John 14:3, NRSV

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation or Pastor Janis Sloka. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as: ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER/GREETER FOR...

- Assistance with wheelchair seating
- Assisted listening devices
- Large print bulletins
- Directions to restrooms

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5th Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

Holy Communion Sunday

+Indicates to rise as you are able.

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

WELCOME

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves, and it is true... Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Our Lord is with us now and always, for Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+ SONG

"Beautiful Savior" ELW #838

+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.**

+CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *Please read the verses responsively by verses.*

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

**²Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

**⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

**¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Only By the Blood of the Lamb"

Only by the blood of the Lamb,
Only by the blood of the Lamb;
We've overcome, in His grace we now stand,
Only by the blood of the Lamb.

Repeat

+GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

Children's Bible page #448

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

SONG *“When Our Music, God is Glorified” ELW #851*

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+PEACE

The sharing of the peace is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church. Far more than a sociable handshake, it is a ministry we do for each other that proclaims the promise of God's peace given to us and reconciles us to God and one another.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Every good and perfect gift is from God. In grateful response to all of God's gifts, we offer our time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of the church-bearing witness to the love of Christ in our community, country, and world. Your financial offerings may be placed in the plates by the sanctuary doors. You are also invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!

+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 – SUNG WITH “BROKEN FOR ME”

Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought forth bread from the earth. Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that man and woman might have food and drink. You gave your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness. And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as daughters and sons. Blessed is our brother Jesus, Who walks with us on the road of our world's suffering, And who is known to us in the breaking of the bread.

CONGREGATION SINGS

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

On the night of His arrest and betrayal, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying “This is my body, given for you.”

CONGREGATION SINGS

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

Verse: **This is my body given for you; Eat it, rememb’ring I died for you.**

In the same way He took wine, and having given thanks for it, He gave the cup to His disciples, saying, “This cup is the new covenant with God, sealed with my blood, Shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.”

CONGREGATION SINGS

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

Verse: **This is my blood I shed for you; For your forgiveness, making you new.**

Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the kingdom of God.

CONGREGATION SINGS

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

Verse: **Come to my table and with me dine; Eat of my bread and drink of my wine.**

Refrain: **Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

+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

This is the Lord's table. Jesus himself is the host of this meal and welcomes everyone to come and eat, to be nourished in the faith—fed, forgiven, and loved back to life for the sake of a world in need. If you wish to remain seated, we will gladly bring Holy Communion to you in your pew; please simply inform the usher. If you wish not to receive Communion, you are still invited to receive a blessing and may indicate this preference by coming forward with your hands folded.

COMMUNION

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+OUR MISSION

Our mission statement reminds us of our collective calling as St. Paul Lutheran Church in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is the mission we share together?

Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.

+BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing” ELW #389

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

- **Lost and Found:** Please check out the cart outside of the worship area. Does the item belong to you or a family member. Items not claimed by May 21st will be donated to GARC’s thrift store.
- **May Calendar:** is on the table in the church entry.

Outreach

- **May 28 Worship at 1st Congregational, UCC:** St Paul was invited to worship with the Congregational Church on May 28th at 10:00 a.m., to celebrate the installation of their new Pastor. This will be in place of worshipping at St. Paul. The worship service will be live-streamed. Please mark your calendars.
- **Camp of the Cross:** The Camp is having a **“Chair”ing is Caring!** fundraiser to buy new chairs for the fellowship hall. See the new chair, in the gathering space, that they are planning to purchase. Each chair is \$25. There are Camp envelopes for the donations on a table in the church entry.
- **Freewill Brunch Fundraiser:** for the McLean County Wrestling Club. May 14th, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Garrison Auditorium. Serving pancakes and eggs with ham.
- **Baccalaureate:** The community will celebrate all our Garrison Graduates here at St. Paul on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00PM. Fellowship will follow the service.
- **Equal Exchange:** a variety of coffee and chocolate are for sale, at cost, on a cart in the fellowship hall. This supports the small coffee farmers.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Fellowship Hosts:** We need hosts for May.
- **Readers:** are needed for May. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on a table in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary.
- **Acolytes:** We need hosts for May.

Upcoming

- **Church Picnic:** Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 10th at 6PM for the annual congregational picnic. Food, Games and Fun for all ages!

General

- Office Hours: are from 9a.m.-12 noon Mondays-Tuesdays-Wednesdays
- Update our Living Wall: People are encouraged to send updated pictures to the church to put up on the Living Wall. Bring a picture to the office or email your picture to the church, stpaul@restel.com. Faye Seidler will then put them on the wall.
- Directory: We are going to update the church directory. Loree would like everyone's phone numbers and addresses updated by May 15th. Please email, text, or write a note and leave it on Loree's desk. She will be using the information that is listed in Breeze, our church management system.
- Live Facebook: each week at St. Paul's. The 4 Ministers are also on FB and Instagram each week.
- Get your St. Paul Gear! Spread our mission with custom shirts! Check them out in the Fellowship Hall.

You invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.

*Thank you for being a part of what God
is doing at St. Paul!*



In Our Prayers...

Carrell Foss, Lorraine Seidler, Grayson Phillips, Matt Steinmetz, Kristi Devitt, Hayden Ogilvie, Clarence Behles, Glen Blanchard, Darrin Huston, Stuart Bennett, Mike Gackle, Mona Reinisch, Steve Seidler, Travis Kolden, Heidi Smith, Lorinda Johnson, Doug Steinmetz, Jeff Wretling, Randy Mautz, Alton Krebsbach, Terry Metz. Judy Proffit and family at the death of Dennis, The Iglehart family at the death of Linda, Eleanor Mehlhoff, and family at the death of her great grandson, the Betz Family at the death of Corey, The Rustad family at the death of Edythe

Birthday Wishes This Week To:

Eli Maki	May 09
Sheryl Krueger	May 10
Janis Sloka III	May 11
Judith Iverson	May 13



COKESBURY'S
HERO
HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

WHEN: MON, MAY 22ND - THUR, MAY 25TH

WHERE: ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH GARRISON, ND

WHO: ANY CHILD KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

PROGRAM IS OFFERED AS FREE-WILL DONATION

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 8TH

THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE



Today, May 7th

9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
9:45 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion/Choir
10:45 a.m. Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
6-8 gr. LOL
11:15 a.m. Choir Practice
3-5 p.m. Candela's Open House at the Parsonage

Mon. 9:00 a.m. -12 Noon Office Hours
Tues. 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon Office Hours
10:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Wed. 7:30 a.m. Youth Breakfast 9-12th
9:00 a.m. -12 Noon Office Hours
5:30 p.m. Rummage Sale Meeting
6:00 p.m. All Church BBQ
7:00 p.m. Sweet Sounds
Thurs. 10:00 a.m. Community Bible Study at The Meadows
6:00 p.m. Church Council

Next Sunday, May 14th

9:45 a.m. Worship Holy Communion/Graduates/Sweet Sounds/Sunday School Sings
10:45 a.m. Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
9-12 gr. LOL
11:15 a.m. Choir Practice

PERMANENT PROJECTOR AND RETRACTABLE SCREEN IN THE SANCTUARY

The Church Council after many years of discussion made the decision to put in the sanctuary a permanent projector and *retractable projection screen*. They believe it will enhance our worship experience and be helpful for children and youth ministries. After receiving a bid, they would like to move forward with your support. However, they will not install them until the monies are raised. So, we need your help! The cost is \$20,000 for the equipment, installation, and the work of an electrician.

We have raised \$7,590 so far. Can you help us meet our goal?

Please prayerfully consider helping make this possible! Please see a council member if you have questions.

Retractable not permanent



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540

stpaul@restel.com

Church Office: 701-463-2019

Sunday Worship – 9:45 a.m.

www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com

pastorsloka@gmail.com

Pastor's Cell: 701-861-9915

Sunday School – 11:00 a.m.

SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Church Council President</i>	Keith Thelen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Financial & Church Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Sunday School Coordinator</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Organist</i>	Kim Gehring
<i>Reader</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Ushers</i>	Pam & TJ Syvertson
<i>Greeters</i>	Helen & Vernon Rostad
<i>Acolyte</i>	Rae & Robbie Maki
<i>Door Attendant</i>	Kelly Syvertson
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Connie Krueger & Ann Reinholt
<i>Communion Set up and Clean Up</i>	Jan Norenberg
<i>Fellowship Hosts</i>	
<i>Technology</i>	Mark Torno

MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to **GATHER** as God's people; to **GROW** in faith, love and service; and to **GO** into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.