

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council has decided that we will be able to worship in-person, inside beginning this Sunday! As we prepare to return to the sanctuary, let us also prepare ourselves, by reading the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday, in advance. Contained in this letter are the gospel passages for the May worship services, for your use. (For a complete listing of scripture passages for this month and next, please see the May/June newsletter.)

The gospel passage for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, is John 15:1-8. Children with Story Bibles can read "The True Vine," which tells about how we can stay connected to God, the owner of the vineyard, and Jesus, the vine. It is found on pages 330-331. Children can also learn about our first scripture passage, Acts 8:26-40, by reading, "Philip Baptizes a Traveler." It is found on pages 294-295.

The gospel passage for Sunday, May 9, is John 15:9-17, which speaks about loving one another. Children with Story Bibles can read "A Loving Heart Helps Others." While this story is not specifically about the gospel reading for today, it contains similar themes. It can be found on pages 314-315.

The gospel passage for Sunday, May 16, is John 17:6-19. Children with Story Bibles can read, "Listening to Jesus," which tells us about some important things that Jesus wants us to remember. The story contains themes that the children have heard in recent gospel passages, too. It is found on pages 322-323.

The gospel passage for Sunday, May 23, is John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15. Today is the Day of Pentecost! The first reading, Acts 2:1-21, tells of the work of the Holy Spirit on that day. Children with Story Bibles can read, "Pentecost," which is found on pages, 288-289.

The gospel passage for Sunday, May 30, is John 3:1-17. Today we celebrate "The Holy Trinity!" Children with Story Bibles can learn about the Psalm for today, Psalm 29, in the story, "Where Does God Live?" It is found on pages 176-177.

Let us gather together in worship at 9:00 a.m., this Sunday, and all the Sundays in May. We will be following COVID guidelines and protocols, as a way of keeping one another safe. Please join me then, as we celebrate the risen Christ, and hear God's word for us. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy