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St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Wilton WI

5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

Inviting People to Journey with
Christ's Family Spreading God's Love

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.

*Please stand as you are able.

Welcome and Announcements

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Scholarship Announcement

St. Paul's Scholarship Recipient—Bria Gruen

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Hymn

"Jesus, We Are Gathered"

ELW #529 (2x)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us .

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and
for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Anniversary

Do you remember an interim pastor we had named Bonnie?
She would bring her two daughters with her (one was named Ivy). For the life of me I cannot recall her last name . I thought her husband served over in New Lisbon. Wrong! She and her family moved to Chicago in order for her to continue her education. Help me Please! If I have her last name, the Synod will help to find her current address.

Roger A. Schmidt
Gary E. Flatgard (deceased)
David L. Shine
Jeffrey Wm. Miller
Larry Sexe
Kristin D. Anderson
Dan Dibbert
Kimberly Riebe
Ryan Fletcher
Kay Wold
James Steinbrecher (deceased)
Kathleen Wohlers
James Steinbrecher (deceased)
Kristin Wendland (need her married name)
Brad Lindberg
Cathleen Morris
Karen Sparling, SAM

Bonnie (need the last name, see above)
Bill Horn
James Arends
John Dumke
Dennis Hallemeier
Christine Hallemeier
Chris Fahey
Mark Teslik
Mark Jolivette

CALENDAR

Today	Reception following service	
Sun., May 10	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Children Sing	
	Mother's Day	
<u>Sun.</u> , May 17	LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Confirmation	
	Reception following service	
Wed., May 20	Church Council	7:00 am
Sun., May 24	Worship	9:00 am
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day	
Sun., May 31	Worship	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduates

We are celebrating Bria Gruen's graduation from Royall High School. Bria will be attending UW-La Crosse in the fall.

We also celebrate with the following college graduates:

Emma Gruen from UW-Eau Claire in December and is currently attending UW-La Crosse

Bryce Gruen, from UW-La Crosse

Thadyn Conner, from University of Northwestern St. Paul, and will begin a Master of Divinity degree program at Westminster Theological Seminary outside of Philadelphia, PA

Kaylin Gruen, Master's Degree from Rush University in Chicago, IL

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

Dear Lord Jesus;

**We lift to you our children and grandchildren. We ask that your spirit will dwell with them according to your will, that they will grow in the knowledge of you and know they are dearly loved by you. We pray for your protection from deception by the evil one and his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning your direction for them. We also pray for all children throughout the world that you will keep them in your loving care. In Jesus name we pray.
AMEN**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

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.

A reading from Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled 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!”⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.⁵⁸ Then 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.⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”⁶⁰ Then 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.

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

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face steadfast love.”
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.**

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

Distribution

Prayer

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
And the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
Bless you now an forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise he Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Those Serving Today

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Lorrie Bever;
Acolytes: Confirmation Students

In Our Prayers

Linda, Jeremy Munson, Gordy O’Rourke, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Front, Brian, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Brian, Darlene Diekrager, Jack Arndt, Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia, Daniel Pulson, Marie Jacobson, Rick Brandau, Lenora Martin, Jenny Simpson Erickson

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for
the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true
Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in
dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eter-
nal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and
all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and
sea and all their creatures, and with angels and arch-
angels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your
name and join their unending hymn,

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever.

Amen

A reading from 1 Peter 2:2-10

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

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let
yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priest-
hood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Je-
sus Christ. ⁶ For 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."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do
not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble

and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were des-
tined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy na-
tion, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the ex-
cellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvel-
ous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

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

GOSPEL

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 205

Gospel Reading

*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.*

The holy gospel according to John 14:1-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus 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’? ¹⁰ Do 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.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“The Church’s One Foundation”** **ELW #654**

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Merciful God, receive our prayer.)**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn

“Give Thanks”

Back of Hymnal

PRAYER

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.