

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

PH# (979) 732-2423 Fax (979) 733-0489

E-mail: [admin@splctx.org](mailto:admin@splctx.org) [www.splctx.com](http://www.splctx.com) **Pastor:** [pastor.akethan@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.akethan@gmail.com)

May 8, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

\*\*\*\*\*

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			O. C. S.
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

\*\*\*\*\*

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

**VISION STATEMENT:** We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- *We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.*

\* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

**INTRODUCTION**

*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS**

*(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)*

\* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We begin our worship of God by first privately confessing our sins to God. We recognize Jesus as our Shepherd, but we don't always listen and follow where he wants to lead us. We have listened to other voices and followed our own will. We have fallen short in things we have done, said and thought, as well as we have failed to help, assist and care for others and our creation. We take a few moments now to confess these sins, and then I'll remind us of the promises of Jesus.

*(Silence for private confession.)*

P If you are truly sorry and asking God for help, here is the promise he commanded the leaders in his church to proclaim, “You are forgiven.” May this forgiveness free you and help you to live; to live in Jesus' name.

**C Amen.**

**GOSPEL SONG: WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME (THE SUMMONS)**

**“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let My love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you let My life be grown in you and you in Me?”**

**“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let Me answer pray'r in you and you in Me?”**

**GOSPEL:** John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

A The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 10, verses 22-30.

<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is

greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one."

**GOSPEL SONG: WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME (THE SUMMONS)**

"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in Me?"

"Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?"

Lord, Your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go, where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule. Arrangement: John L. Bell © 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group  
The Iona Community GIA Publications, Inc. Exclusive North American Agent. All rights reserved.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\* SERMON SONG: KING OF LOVE**

With the hands that formed the world you washed our feet.  
Kneeling down you laid aside your majesty.  
And you said for us to go and do the same.  
So we serve for the glory of our King.

You left heaven's throne to rescue what was lost.  
Stretching out your mighty arms to bear the cross.  
Then you rolled away the stone the vic'try won.  
And you said, "Go and tell the world what love has done."

**CHORUS:**

*King of love, let your kingdom come! Reign in us, your daughters and your sons;  
Fill us up, let us overflow... with your love, until the whole world knows  
You are the King of Love!*

**Give us hearts that long to see your justice done.  
And let the river of Your mercy flow through us.  
And let compassion be the loudest song we sing.  
'Til the day when every tongue declares you King.**

**CHORUS:**

*King of love, let your kingdom come! Reign in us, your daughters and your sons;  
Fill us up, let us overflow... with your love, until the whole world knows  
You are the King of Love!*

**~BRIDGE~**

Hallelujah to the King of Love. All praise and glory to the King of Love.  
Hallelujah to the King of Love. All praise and glory to the King of Love.  
Hallelujah to the King of Love! All praise and glory to the King of Love!  
Hallelujah to the King of Love! All praise and glory to the King of Love!

**LAST CHORUS:**

**King of love, let your kingdom come! Reign in us, your daughters and your sons;  
Fill us up, let us overflow... with your love, until the whole world knows  
You are the King of Love!**

**Hallelujah to the King of Love! All praise and glory to the King of Love!  
Hallelujah to the King of Love! All praise and glory to the King of Love!**

CCLI Song #7052881 Words and Music by Steven Curtis Chapman  
©2015 Be Essential Songs | Who You Say Music CCLI Lic #1729377

**\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C** 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.

*(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)*

**\* PRAYERS**

**A** Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church,  
people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unflinching trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things.

*A brief silence.*

A Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing.

*A brief silence.*

A Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives.

*A brief silence.*

A Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for peace in Ukraine. Help to end this war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Change hearts, bring peace and show the world your existence.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for the family and friends of Kathleen Schindler. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:  
Elyse Cherniss; Chris Thraen; Troy Scarbrough; Eugene Schobel; Wesley Braden; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for those battling cancer, all expectant mothers, those who reside in care facilities and the homebound, all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel.  
{Individuals we are praying for are in the bulletin on pages 9 & 10.}

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

*A brief silence.*

A Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life.

*A brief silence.*

A In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

***(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)***

#### **OFFERING and POWER OF ONE**

*"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.*

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

P Living God, bless these offerings we place before you today; they are a thank you for all you have given us. Welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\* REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C 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**

**P** The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, are welcome.  
**C Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION** (Continuous with Individual Cups)

*{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Please keep 6 feet between those who are not your family members. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}*

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.  
**C Amen.**

**\* BLESSING**

**P** God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

**\* CLOSING SONG: NOBODY**

**Why You ever chose me has always been a mystery.  
All my life I've been told I belong at the end of the line.  
With all the other "Not-Quites," With all the "Never-Get-It-Rights."  
But it turns out they're the ones You were lookin' for all this time.**

**CHORUS:**

***'Cause I'm just a nobody, tryin' to tell everybody, all about Somebody  
Who saved my soul. Ever since You rescued me, You gave My heart  
A song to sing. I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus.  
I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus.***

**Moses had stage fright. And David brought a rock to a sword fight.  
You picked twelve outsiders nobody would've chosen and you changed the world.  
Well the moral of the story is, ev-erybody's got a purpose.  
So when I hear that devil start talkin' to me sayin' "Who DO you think you are?"**

**CHORUS:**

***I say, "I'm just a nobody, tryin' to tell everybody, all about Somebody  
Who saved my soul. Ever since You rescued me, You gave My heart  
A song to sing. I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus.  
I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus."***

**BRIDGE (sing twice)**

**So let me go down, down, down in history.  
As another blood-bought, faithful member of the family.  
And if they all forget my name, well, that's fine with me.  
I'm livin' for the world to see no-body but Je-sus.**

**CHORUS:**

***'Cause I'm just a nobody, tryin' to tell everybody, all about Somebody  
Who saved my soul. Ever since You rescued me, You gave My heart  
A song to sing. I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus.  
I'm livin' for the world to see – nobody but Jesus.***

CCLI Song #7121827 Words and Music by Bernie Herms, Mark Hall, and Matthew West ©2018 My Refuge Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Highly Combustible Music (Admin. by One77 Songs c/o Kobalt Songs Music Publishing (ASAP)) | House of Story Music Publishing (Admin. by One77 Songs c/o Kobalt Songs Music Publishing (ASCAP)) | One77 Songs (Admin. by One77 Songs c/o Kobalt Songs Music Publishing (ASCAP)) | Remaining portion is unaffiliated. CCLI License #1729377

**\* DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. The shepherd is leading you. **C Thanks be to God, and we will.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission.

**USHERS:** Fay & Thomas Ulbricht

**LAY READER:** Courtney Busselman

**STREAMING:** Mike Maas

**ACOLYTE:** Brook David

**ALTAR GUILD:** Kay Wesson

**WELCOME:** Welcome to worship this fourth Sunday of Easter. And a happy Mother's Day to all mother-figures!

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Carol Lighthill & Brian in loving memory of Mahlon for the anniversary of his birthday on May 8 and also in honor of Mother's Day.

❁ As you leave worship today, be sure to pick up a carnation in memory of or in honor of the mothers in your life. **Everyone takes home a flower!!** ❁

We extend our Christian sympathy to Ilene & Vernon Schindler and their family for the loss of Vernon's mother Kathleen Schindler who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

**COLLECTION OF OFFERING:** Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

**Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses:** \$8,405.00

**Attendance:** April 30/May 1, 2022 – 172      **Contributions:** April 30/May 1 – \$8,484.20  
**Power of One:** April 30/May 1, 2022 – \$63.00      **Building Fund:** April 30/May 1 – \$1,037.12

*Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.*

**Wednesday Night Attendance:** – Wed., May 4 – **60 Total**

**BLAST/Confirmation:** 57

**Support Staff:** 13

**ATTENTION:** *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

**KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS: Those Battling Cancer:** Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Irving Schneider; Shelly Bowden; Larry Poenitzsch; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Kenny Neuendorff; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Joyce Templeton; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Bill Stolle; Jessica Mauchlen; Larry Guthrie; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Anthony Baumbach; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Devon Tiffin; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; Brenda Baker.

**Expectant Mothers:** Miranda Wright; Stephanie Miles; Eileen Yearwood; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; Madisyn Horndt Neumann.

**Those in Care Facilities and Homebound:** Robert Eaton; Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Dolores Wessels; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker. **Homebound:** Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms.

**Those Law Enforcement Officers:** Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones. **Fire Fighters, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and 9-1-1 Dispatchers:** Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette. **Active Duty Military:** Arturo Mares; Keven Rios; Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; Kevin Gonzalez.

**\*\* NOTICE REGARDING BULLETINS:** Please take your bulletin home after worship. We will **not** be reusing them. Thank you! \*\*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available once again for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺



**Memorial Service** – There will be a memorial service for **Thomas “Tom” Decker** in the sanctuary **Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 11:00 AM.** A reception will follow the service in The Lighthouse.

**\*\* Worship Schedule Change!!!** There will be a slight change in our worship schedule the **third weekend of May!** There will be regular worship at 7:00 PM on Saturday, May 21, 2022 with a service of Holy Communion. **Sunday, May 22, 2022 will be a one-service Sunday.** We will have only **one worship service at 10:00 AM** to celebrate **confirmation** of 4 of our youth. We will also be honoring our high school, college and trade school graduates at this service. Please note the Sunday worship time change on your calendar and join us in the celebration!



**Register for Vacation Bible School – July 18-22, 2022!!**

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us as we “Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!” **VBS dates are July 18-22, 2022 from 6:00-8:30 PM each evening** and is open up to children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available for \$7 each. Parents may register their students online by visiting [vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022](https://vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022).

**BE A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER!** Volunteers are Needed . . . VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for

Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register on line by visiting [vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022](https://vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022). Questions? Contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858 or [stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com).

● **THE GATHERING:** The Gathering, a young adult group, meets twice a month for food, fellowship and devotions led by Stephanie and Bradley Polasek. **They meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM** at the Polasek Residence and different venues in town. For more information, contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library**. For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Mon., May 9 –** 9:30 AM – Staff Meeting  
6:00-7:30 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)

**Tues., May 10 –** 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)  
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)  
5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)

**Wed., May 11 –** 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel  
5:30 PM – BLAST, Confirmation, & Wed. Night Adult Bible Study  
6:00 PM – High School Youth

**Thurs., May 12 –** 5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)

**Fri., May 13 –** 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

**Sat., May 14 –** 11:00 AM – Tom Decker Memorial Service (sanctuary)  
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

**Next Sun., May 15 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School and Confirmation  
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

#### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Sunday, May 8, 2022 Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416**  
When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

#### **Sunday, May 8, 2022 Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)**

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

#### **Monday, May 9, 2022 Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760**

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

#### **Saturday, May 14, 2022 Matthias, Apostle**

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

#### **OTHER READINGS:** Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

The reading begins:

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

#### **PSALM:** Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. <sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a

table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**OTHER READINGS:** Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

The reading begins:

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. <sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

### **SERVICE OVERVIEW: THE SEARCHING SHEEP**

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico in today's gospel reading. We long to know. Who are you, Jesus? What are you really about? Tell us plainly. As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home, and of him knowing the sheep by name. Today's texts are rich in reframing *who* is searching for *whom*. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus' works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can't be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is. We see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe, to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

### **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

It is the fourth week of Easter, and today we celebrate Jesus the Good Shepherd. Shepherding was a difficult and dirty job for the men and women who herded the flocks, but sheep were gifts from God and essential sources of life for the people. Welcome to worship! Join us in thanks as Christ shepherds his flock of sheep given to him by God.

Many people have little or no firsthand understanding of a shepherd's day-to-day work, but the image of Christ the Good Shepherd as a strong and caring protector continues to resonate. Being known by name, being protected when dangers come, and being cared for by someone who really knows us are powerful images of human needs. The Christian life begins in baptism when God claims us. Throughout the journey of life God cares for us, bringing rest and comfort. We are protected along the way, and even when the worst happens the promise of God's presence sustains. Along the way, we are fed and nourished. Finally, at the last, God's people are promised a place Jesus himself has prepared. Life and death, joy and sorrow, fear and courage; all accompanied by the promises of God.

Jesus responds to people who have seen his works and still do not believe by saying, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." Here Jesus suggests faith comes to us as a gift from God. How blessed are those who believe! At the same time, there are plenty of times in life when even the faithful do not hear the voice of Jesus. Sometimes the noise of the world drowns out the voice of Jesus. Sometimes we choose not to listen for the shepherd's voice, and sometimes we hear with complete clarity.

The Jews gathered around Jesus and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." To anyone familiar with the gospels, "Tell us plainly" reads like the punch line to a joke. Jesus speaks in parables that people cannot understand. Jesus speaks cryptically, especially in John's gospel. Jesus often answers a question with a question. It would be so much easier if Jesus would tell us plainly. It would be so much easier if the truth of the gospel, the promise of resurrected life, the promise of the kingdom of God breaking into the world, were easily proven and verifiable. Would that we could know this truth like we know the earth orbits the sun. Instead we are left with faith, trust, and hope. We don't have certainty; we have confidence. We don't have an iron clad guarantee; we have a promise. We don't have a signed contract; we have hope, which we trust does not disappoint.

### **KID STUDY:**

One day, some people asked Jesus to tell them plainly if he was the Christ. He answered them saying, "I told you, but you did not believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." When you give your heart to Jesus and place your life in his hands, you have his promise that you are safe and that nothing can snatch you from his hand. Oh, you may have your "ups and downs." You may even stray away at times, but just a little tug will pull you right back into His hand. Even if you really mess up, Jesus will you up and place you right back where you belong -- in the palm of his hand. What a wonderful promise! Jesus has you in the palm of his hand.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*Hear and understand God’s voice, in Jesus, finding us when we need it most. It’s a voice that knows our story in all of its fullness: the sinful and the saintly, the broken and the beautiful, the flawed and faithful. Once we’ve followed the sound of that voice; once we’ve heard that kind of grace and mercy and forgiveness and love for ourselves and believed it, we can become and we can be that voice for others. Then we will walk, together with more of God’s children, along paths and into pastures of abundant life. - Mark Havel*

+++++

**Next Week's Theme (May 14 & 15):** Jesus' Command / Love others as I love you

**Next Week's Scriptures (May 14 & 15):**

**First Reading:** Acts 11:1-18

*“Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life.”*

**Psalm:** Psalm 148

*“The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.” (Ps. 148:13)*

**Second Reading:** Revelation 21:1-6

*“New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem.”*

**Gospel:** John 13:31-35

*“Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.”*