


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101

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www.siouxcitystpauls.org

A photograph of a lush green field filled with white wildflowers, likely Queen Anne's lace, under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A white-bordered rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing text.

With great **power** the apostles
continued to **testify** to the
resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 4:33, NIV

Praise Service Sun., April 7, 2024
Sermon: "Easter Makes a Difference"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

The Second Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Sunday, April 7, 2024

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Elder: Tim Draube **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Usher: Mike Popken

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf and The Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Reader: Ralph Schroeder

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER When Thomas finally met Jesus, alive again after Easter, he went from demanding proof to a personal confession of faith, "My Lord and my God." It would have been a different story had the news been false. The rest of the Jerusalem congregation truly exhibited Easter faith when they became a welcoming community, one that shared with newcomers whatever they needed. The news was unbelievable, but so were the responses—in word and deed as faith saw the freeing truth: we need fear nothing, not even death. We have heard the news as well. How shall we respond?

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand Fellowship

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Song “The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss. And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, J.D. Walt & Jesse Reeves, worshiptogether.com songs/
sixsteps Music, used by permission CCLI 11440148 and 20162974)

Nicene Creed

First Lesson

Acts 4:32–35

(Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Epistle 1 John 1:1—2:2 (God is light; He forgives our sins.)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to

forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel John 20:19–31 (Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger

into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “Jesus Paid It All”

Verse 1: I hear the savior say, thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all

Chorus: 'Cause Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow

Verse 2: Lord, now indeed I find thy power and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone (**Chorus**)

Verse 3: And when before the throne I stand in him complete
"Jesus died my soul to save" my lips shall still repeat (**Chorus**)

O praise the one who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead (X4) (**Chorus**)

He washed it white as snow

Songwriters: Jack Fascinato / Ernest J. Ford Jesus Paid it All lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC CCLI 11440148 and 20162974

The Word “Easter Makes a Difference”

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

*Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.*

Ephesians 5:1-2—Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ love us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory “Step by Step”

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways,
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days. (repeat)

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways,
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

And I will follow you all of my days.

(Music by Beaker, arranged by Alea, Copyright 1991 BMG Songs, Inc. used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

Invitation with Confession and Absolution

P: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

P: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

INVITATIONAL SONG (“Praise Team):

He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed

Take your place beside the Savior now

Sit down and be set free

Come to the table

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION “Draw Me Close”

Verse

Draw me close to You Never let me go I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I'm Your friend

You are my desire No one else will do 'Cause nothing else can take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace
Help me find the way Bring me back to You

Chorus

You're all I want You're all I've ever needed You're all I want
Help me know You are near

Repeat Verse

Repeat Chorus 2x

Help me know You are near 2x

Word and Music by Kelly Carpenter 1994 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Capitol
CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) CCLI License 11440148 and 20162974

“Knowing You”

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
all this world reveres and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,
spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness, and I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
to be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
All surpassing gift of righteousness. (refrain)

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live and never die. (refrain)

(Words/music by Graham Kendrick, 1997 Make Way Music, Ltd, Integrity Music, used by permission CCLI
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“Let Us Break Bread Together”

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
3. Let us praise God together on our knees, let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
(Repeat 3rd verse)

(Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Keith Phillips, 1986 Word Music, used by permission,
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The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song “Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever
Sing Praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us – Forever,
Forever.

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever
By the grace of God, we will carry on, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, Sing praise, sing praise

Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us, Forever

Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong, Forever God is with us – Forever
Forever

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, 2000 WorshipTogether.com Songs/Six Steps Music/ ASCAP, used
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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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