

# St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026, 8:30 AM

Contemporary Service



### **AS WE GATHER**

Since 1986, voice actor Tom Bodett has had his career defined with a one-line promotion for the Motel 6 hotel chain. He always ends his commercials for the company with a simple line stating “we’ll leave the light on for you.” Having an assured place to be going to can be encouraging and comforting. As Jesus speaks with His disciples, we hear Him reassure them and us that He will be in His Father’s house, the heavenly place

where lights are not even necessary. In the Revelation to John, we have this insight about our God’s eternal city: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). In “Jerusalem the Golden,” medieval monk Bernard of Cluny writes of the “radiancy of glory” and the “bliss beyond compare” that are in store for God’s redeemed people there (*LSB* 672:1). As we share in the foretaste of the feast to come through our worship, we can only imagine what joys still await us.



### **FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION**

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.*

*Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Let It Rise”

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us  
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us  
Let the praises of the King rise among us  
Let it rise  
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us  
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us  
Let the joy of the King rise among us  
Let it rise.  
Oh-h-h, let it rise.  
Oh-h-h, let it rise. (Repeat)

## WELCOME

*(Please stand)*

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 27:1; 147:11; 104:24a, 31a; Isaiah 2:5b*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,  
**in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

**In wisdom have You made them all.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and**

**death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1*

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

**I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.

**O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.

**For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.**

**Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

*(Please be seated)*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

*(Chorus, Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus)*

**Chorus:**

**Into marvelous light I'm running,  
Out of darkness, out of shame.  
Through the cross You are the truth,  
You are the life, You are the way.**

**“Marvelous Light”**

**I once was fatherless, a stranger with no hope.  
Your kindness wakened me,  
Wakened me from my sleep, now.  
Your love, it beckons deeply,  
A call to come and die.  
By grace now I will come and take this life,  
Take Your life.**

**Pre-Chorus:**

**Sin has lost its power, death has lost its sting.  
From the grave You've risen victoriously. Chorus:**

**My dead heart now is beating,  
My deepest stain's now clean.  
Your breath fills up my lungs;  
Now I'm free, now I'm free.  
My dead heart now is beating,  
My deepest stain's now clean.  
Your breath fills up my lungs;  
Now I'm free, now I'm free. Pre-Chorus and Chorus:**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60**

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the

ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

<sup>2</sup>And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

<sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:2–10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

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

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

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

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to

the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:**

**“The Fruit of the Spirit”**

*(Refrain, verse, refrain, verse, refrain, verse, refrain)*

Refrain:

**For the fruit of the Spirit is Love, joy, peace,  
Patience, kindness, goodness,  
Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;  
For such there is no law.**

**Have you seen my Lord on the cross so high?  
Do you know His name? Do you hear his cry?  
“Father, here’s my love, Father, take my love,  
As the tree bears fruit for You.”** (refrain)

**Have you seen His face and the look He gave  
To the dying man He alone would save?  
“Sinner, here’s my love, Sinner, take my love  
As the tree bears fruit for You.”** (refrain)

**Can we answer Him? Can the heart reply?  
How to follow Him as we live and die!  
“Jesus, here’s our love. Jesus take our love,  
As the tree bears fruit for You.”** (refrain)

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SONG OF THE DAY**

**“The Way”**

*(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Last Chorus)*

**All creation cries out with longing  
With groans only You can comprehend  
And with wisdom, You always answer  
And give the words of life, so unfailing  
  
And Your glory shines all around us  
Your faithfulness shown for all to see  
When we think of all of Your wonders  
The beauty of Your plan that's been revealed  
When we walk in Your light, when we walk in it**

**Chorus:**

**Shine, bright, Let Your glory fill this land  
Lift high, the King of Kings and great I am  
Jesus, You are the way, You are the way**

**We can see the works of Your loving hands  
With the hope and peace not made by man  
When You poured out Your grace and Your mercy  
And You held out Your arms so we could see  
You bled for all mankind and set the captives free Chorus**

**Bridge:**

**Na na na na na na, Jesus  
Na na na na na na, You are the way  
Na na na na na na, Jesus  
Na na na na na na Chorus**

**Last Chorus:**

**Shine, bright, Let Your glory fill this land  
Lift high, the King of Kings and great I am  
Shine, bright, Let Your glory fill this land  
Lift high, the King of Kings and great I am  
Jesus, You are the way, You are the way.  
Jesus, You are the way, You are the way, You are the way.**

**MESSAGE**

**OFFERING** *(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)*

*(Please stand)*

**PRAYERS**

**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.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### HOLY COMMUNION

*(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)*

### WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### LAMB OF GOD

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away.**

**Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*(Please be seated)*

### RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

### DISTRIBUTION SONG

*(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Verse)*

**Amazing grace**

**How sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me**

**I once was lost, but now I'm found**

**Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear**

**And grace my fears relieved**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed**

Chorus:

**My chains are gone**

**I've been set free**

**My God, my Savior has ransomed me**

**And like a flood His mercy reigns**

**Unending love, Amazing grace**

**“My Chains Are Gone”**

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures  
Chorus: (2x)**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, Who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine**

### **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

*(4 Verses)*

**In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!**

**“In Christ Alone”**

**And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'til He returns or calls me home,  
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!**

*(Please stand)*

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

**Amen**

### **BLESSING**

*(Please be seated)*

### **SONG TO DEPART**

*(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)*

**There is a river running deep in your soul,  
It's the power of God can't you feel it flow.  
You've got a glory that can light up the dark,  
You've got a kingdom of God in your heart.**

**Chorus:**

**You can go now, you can go.  
You've got the treasure that the world needs to know.  
You can go now, you can go.  
You've got the power of God, let it flow.**

**You've got a promise from your Father above  
And there is nothing on earth that can stop His love.  
You are the light He wants to set on a hill,  
You are the one who can walk in His will. (Chorus)**

**“You Can Go”**

## **Bridge**

**With the prize before, and the cross behind,  
In the power of God, and the name that binds,  
You can walk in faith, you can always know,  
When the Lord puts love in your heart it will grow. (Chorus)**

## **LEAVING**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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**St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS, 503 S. State St., Caro, Michigan CCLI#277564**

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