

**Welcome to our Sunday Worship  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 21, 2023 9:00 A.M. EOW**

*(Please stand)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**THE GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray: O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The First Reading:** *(Lector) A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

*With Jesus gone from their midst and the promised kingdom of the Messiah not yet a reality, what was to happen next? Luke, the author of the book of Acts, answered this question not only for that time, but for all time. The power of God that was at work in Jesus had now passed to the assembled community of men and women who followed him from Galilee to Jerusalem, had witnessed his resurrection, and now formed a visible community of faith awaiting his return. The Church is still that visible community today.*

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come

upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

[1:6-14]

*Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36**

*Unique in the Psalter, Psalm 68 has been described as a collection of short songs and fragments possibly used in a sacred procession at some festival. It celebrated the sovereignty and providence of God.*

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.

**Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \***  
**as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.

**Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;**  
**exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \***  
**The Lord is his Name, rejoice before him!**

Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!

**God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \***  
**but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,

**The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,**  
**at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \***  
**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

**Your people found their home in it; \***  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.

**He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \***  
**he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.

**How wonderful is God in his holy places! \***  
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!**  
**Blessed be God!**

**The Second Reading:** (*Lector*) A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

*A threatened persecution seemed close at hand for the original recipients of the first letter of Peter. So Peter encouraged the faithful to remain steadfast after the example of Jesus in his suffering. The hope of the afflicted rested on the promise of the constant presence of Christ who had called them to share his glory.*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

[4:12-14, 5:6-11]

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**THE GOSPEL** (*Please stand*)

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*At the heart of this passage is the essential message of John's Gospel: Jesus has been fully revealed as the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God with all divine authority and power. As such he gives the eternal life of God to those who believe in his true nature now glorified by the resurrection.*

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you

have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

[17:1-11]

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**SERMON** (*Please be seated*)

**NICENE CREED** (*Please stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE I** (*Please stand or kneel*)

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God,  
and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church  
of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for all 78 churches of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, for the Anglican Communion Diocese of the Province of the West Indies, and for the universal church, that they may be filled with thy truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Doug our Bishop, Tom our Rector, Mary our Deacon, and for all the clergy and staff of St. Paul's, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Joe our President, Ron our governor, our county commissioners & those who advise them,  
for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Naples, for every city and community, and for those who live in them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of  
the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We offer thanksgiving for those celebrating the anniversary of their birthday this week: Wayne Dick, Don Anderson, and Roxane Cunningham, and those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage: Fred & Carole Rakoncay, and William & Mary Jo Burfeind.

For [ ] and] all those on our parish prayer list , let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died, (especially [ ],) in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, and nurture victims of violence and warfare throughout your world, to the glory of your holy Name.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

### **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

*People: And also with you.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (Please stand)**

**OFFERTORY** *(Please be seated during hymn)***Doxology** *(Please stand)***EUCARISTIC PRAYER****Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.**People:** And also with you.**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.**People:** We lift them to the lord.**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**SANCTUS**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The people kneel or stand as the Celebrant continues)***Celebrant:** Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

**GREAT AMEN** *Amen, Amen, Amen*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray.

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish a blessing instead, please fold your hands across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please stand or kneel)*

*Celebrant and People:* God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## BLESSING

*Celebrant:* And finally my brothers and sisters, live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shall be with you this day and all the days of your life.

*Celebrant and People:* Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St. Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*The Celebrant issues the DISMISSAL*

*People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

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**Welcome visitors!** We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall, after the service.

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**Today's 9:00 a.m. Worship Leaders:** *Celebrant & Homilist:* The Rev. Stephen Gerth, *Eucharistic Ministers:* Lind Connelly, *Chalice:* Judy Cimiglia, *Lector:* Tom Connolly, *Intercessor:* Pauline Suss, *Music Director / Organist:* Jacquie Scaduto, *Ushers:* Barb and David Abernethy, *Greeter:* Katie Judnich

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**Active Altar Guild Members:** Judy Allen- Lee Barron

Carol O'Connell - Rosemary Porembo - Nancy Smith - Mia Tajawandee - Cindy Tysiak

**Honorary Altar Guild Members:** Linda Condon - Melene & Ray Davila

Joan Menslage- Tootie Steineger

**Other St. Paul's Sunday Worship Services**

5 pm Worship in Creole

**St. Paul's Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, Deacon, Seasonal

Deb Avery, Parish Administrative Assistant

Gary Dickerson, Sexton

Jacquie Scaduto, Music Director

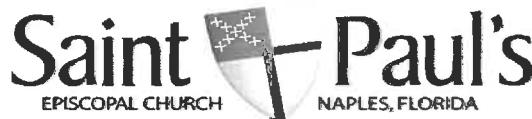
**St. Paul's Vestry Members**

**Senior Warden**-Steve Carnell, **Junior Warden**- Rich Shea,

**Clerk**-Nora Broszeit, Lee Barron, Tom Connolly,

Mary Lou Dogoloff, Peter Lund,

Judy Martin, Carol O'Connell



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