

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

*stpaulswatertown.org*

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**CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL:**

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**LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:**

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**4TH SUNDAY IN EASTER**

**MAY 15, 2011**

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WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ today as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we invite you to join us every week as part of God's family in worship.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME**

**HYMN: #436 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"**

**INVOCATION**

**CONFESSION OF SIN:**

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C. BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND JUST, WILL

FORGIVE OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

P. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C. MOST MERCIFUL GOD, WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE BY NATURE SINFUL AND UNCLEAN. WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART; WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES. WE JUSTLY DESERVE YOUR PRESENT AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US. FORGIVE US, RENEW US, AND LEAD US, SO THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

**ABSOLUTION**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: (Sung, LW p. 161)**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

ANTHEMS: "You Are Holy" (Prince of Peace) Sunday School grades 3-7 10:30am

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Sunday School grades N-2

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

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. 8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, 2 To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me!...51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— 53 you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." 54 When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 At this

they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

19 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**RESPONSE:** *(Sung, LW 164)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10

P. The Gospel according to John, chapter 10,

C. GLORY TO YOU, O LORD. *(Sung, LW P. 165)*

1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

P. *(Following the Gospel)*...This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST. *(Sung)*

**SONG: "Grace Alone"**

1. Ev'ry promise we can make, ev'ry prayer and step of faith, ev'ry difference we will make is only by His grace. Ev'ry mountain we will climb, ev'ry ray of hope we shine, ev'ry blessing left behind is only by His grace.

Chorus: Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown He will provide. Christ in us, our Cornerstone, we will go forth in grace alone.

2. Ev'ry soul we long to reach, ev'ry heart we hope to teach, ev'rywhere we share His peace is only by His grace. Ev'ry loving word we say, ev'ry tear we wipe away, ev'ry sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. *(Chorus)*

End... We will go forth in grace alone.

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**SERMON: Acts 6:1-7 "God Provides!"**

*(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed on the back of the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)*

**THE OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP**

*(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew)*

*Ministry in Motion – CCLS*

RECOGNITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRAYERS

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *(Spoken together)*

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.

**PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER:** *(Adapted from 1 Cor 11 and John 6)*

P. The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

C. "THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS FOR YOU; DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

P. In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying,

C. "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD; DO THIS, WHENEVER YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

P. Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C. WE PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES.

P. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner,

C. WILL BE GUILTY OF SINNING AGAINST THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD.

P. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

C. FOR ANYONE WHO EATS AND DRINKS WITHOUT RECOGNIZING THE BODY OF THE LORD EATS AND DRINKS JUDGMENT ON HIMSELF.

P. Yet as we trust in Jesus and live under his forgiveness,

C. WE NEED NOT FEAR THIS SUPPER. FOR IT HAS BEEN GIVEN US FOR OUR GOOD.

P. So Jesus says,

C. "WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE, AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY."

P. "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink."

C. "WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD REMAINS IN ME, AND I IN HIM. JUST AS THE LIVING FATHER SENT ME AND I LIVE BECAUSE OF THE FATHER, SO THE ONE WHO FEEDS ON ME WILL LIVE BECAUSE OF ME."

### **SONG: "Think About His Love" (Eph 2:4,5)**

*Chorus:* Think about His love, think about His goodness, think about His grace that's brought us through. For as high as the heaven's above so great is the measure of our Father's love. Great is the measure of our Father's love.

1. How could I forget His love? How could I forget His mercy? He satisfies, He satisfies, He satisfies my desires. (*Chorus*)

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*THOSE DESIRING COMMUNION:* *The Bible teaches under the bread and wine of Communion Jesus gives His real body and blood to assure us of forgiveness. (Mt 26:26-28) It also teaches in receiving this meal together, we are by that act professing a unity of faith with the church at whose altar we commune. (1 Cor 10: 16-21) While Communion is meant as a blessing, we can however misuse it to our harm. Those who eat without repentance or recognizing the presence of Jesus' body and blood sin against the Lord. (1 Cor 11:27-29). Also, when fellowship at this meal is practiced with others who hold beliefs contrary to God's Word, the church is weakened and the truth God tells us to guard is compromised. (Ro 16:17, 2 Thess 3:14) In an effort to avoid these sins and follow God's Word, before communing anyone we first seek to teach them about Christ's meal, and have them make a public profession of their agreement with us in the faith. As a matter of loving spiritual care then, not judgment, we invite to commune with us today confirmed members in good standing of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) who have received instruction, and by current membership in one of these sister churches confess a unity of faith with us here at St. Paul's.*

*NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE:* *Out of consideration for those who have difficulty with alcohol a few glasses in the center ring of each Communion tray contain non-alcoholic white wine.*

CONFIRMANDS FIRST COMMUNION: (10:30 service)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### **HYMN OF THANKS:** (*Sung, LW p. 173*)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

BENEDICTION

### **HYMN: "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (LW #455)**

1. Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing; Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
2. With voice as full and strong, As ocean's surging praise, Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
3. With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth, Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
7. Praise him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore: The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF MAY:  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Service

**Acts 6:1-7**

**"God Provides!"**

*1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

1. What truth do we proclaim about our heavenly Father?
2. God provides for our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What kind of life does Jesus provide us with?
4. What are the 2 most important ways God provides for our needs?
5. How did Jesus provide for his people's needs when the apostle's were overloaded?
6. Why is the service of all of God's people so vitally important today?
7. Why aren't we left as orphans in the world?
8. What should we expect to happen when Jesus provides for our needs?

