



Christ's Love Makes Us One

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Order of Service: Worship Bulletin

Prayer Upon Entering Church: We pray for our efforts at telling the good news about Jesus, that our Christian witness may clearly confess God's mighty deeds and that the Holy Spirit would use our Gospel efforts to bring those outside the church into His marvelous kingdom, we pray to the Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: We Praise You, Lord (CW 301)

**1. We praise, you Lord, For Jesus Christ,
Who died and rose again;
He lives to break the pow'r of sin
And over death to reign.**

**2. We praise you, Lord, for Jesus Christ;
He loves this child we bring.
He frees, forgives, and heals us all;
He lives and reigns as king.**

**3. We praise you, Lord, that now this child
Is grafted to the vine,
Is made a member of your house,
And bears the cross as sign.**

**4. We praise you that this child now shares
The freedom Christ can give,
Has died to sin with Christ, and now
With Christ is raised to live.**

Invocation and Confession

Leader: We begin the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Group: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

Leader: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

Prayer of the Day said by group O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the

many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-37

The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Psalm: Psalm 118 read responsively

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song;

Group: he has become my salvation.

Leader: The Lord's right hand is lifted high;

Group: the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Leader: I will not die but live,

Group: the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

Group: you have become my salvation.

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

Group: the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

Group: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Group: 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.

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:18-24

Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth. This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." Alleluia. (John 14:6)

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it

will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

Group: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: With High Delight Let Us Unite (CW 168)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. With high delight Let us unite
In songs of sweet jubilation.
You pure in heart, Each take your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, he
Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.</p> | <p>2. True God, he first From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Shall vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be Like victory
O'er death and grave," Said he, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.</p> |
| <p>3. Let praises ring; Give thanks and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall his love Give us above,
From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.</p> | |

Sermon: Christ's Love Makes Us One (Acts 4:32-37)

Nicene Creed: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Offering: We might be separated in our worship, but the Lord still gives us opportunity to gather our gifts for him. If you are uncomfortable placing your offering in the basket in the back of church, please continue to send in your offerings to our PO Box. It is a safe and secure way to continue giving thanks to God in the midst of trial. Our PO Box is: St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 143, Grant Park, IL 60940.

The Lord's Supper, Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing spoken by Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Closing hymn: This Is My Will (CW 497)

**1. "This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
As I have shown that I love you.**

**3. "I call you now no longer slaves;
No slave knows all the master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
My Father say, you hear from me.**

**2. "No greater love can any have
Than that one die to save his friends.
You are my friends if you obey
What I command that you should do.**

**4. "You chose not me, but I chose you,
That you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
Should bear much fruit that will abide.**

**5. "All that you ask my Father dear
For my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell in each, in all."**

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next Sunday we will celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter. Our lessons will be from Acts 9:36-42, 1 John 4:7-11, 19-21, and John 15:9-17. Our sermon will be based on Acts 9:36-42 with the theme, "Christ's Love Moves Us to Action."

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Carol Luft, Marcia Graf, Bob Jacobs, Patty Rosenbrock (Heritage Village), Mira Wieggen, Becky Herz and Janice Hooton.

Have you ever wondered? Have you ever wondered why there are so many different translations of the Bible? Where did they all come from and how can we know that we really do have God's Word? We will be studying this topic in a Bible Class on translation. Our new class begins today! This class is designed to go four weeks and will run through the month of May. This class would be a good way to get back in to Bible study or start it for the first time!

Elders will meet on Thursday, May 6 at 3:30pm.

New hymnal a new hymnal is coming. Our voter's approved the purchase of the upcoming hymnal. There will be costs involved and there are special envelopes which are available for people to help contribute towards the cost of the new hymnals. The new hymnal itself will cost \$24 a copy.

April financial report Current: \$7,107.00, Missions: \$1,055.00 Easter: \$1,575.00 WELS: \$20.00 WLCFS: \$20.00 Tuition: \$75.00 Total: \$9,852.00

Forward in Christ for May is available in the narthex.

Meditations for the next quarter are available in the narthex.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship 9am
Bible Study after church
Thursday: Elders 3:30pm
Saturday: Worship 6pm
Sunday: Worship 9am
Bible Study after church

Organist: Thank you to Doreen Romadka
Last Week's Attendance: Sunday 37
Saturday 9

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
9954 N16000 E Rd. Grant Park, IL 60940

Pastor Paul Micheel, Pastor
Phone: 815-466-0093 (home)
Email: pastor@stpaulgrantpark.net
Web Site: <http://www.stpaulgrantpark.net>