

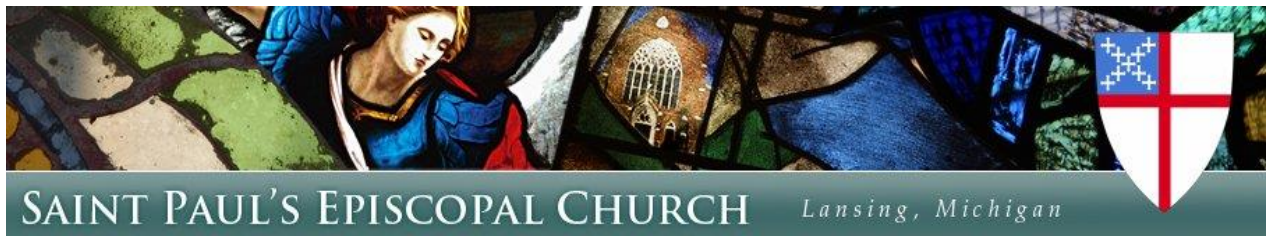
“Our Welcome”

In the light of God’s unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

The Day of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday---April 12, 2020 Ante-Communion

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Office: 517-482-9454

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
www.stpaulslansing.org



This Sunday we will utilize a service known as Antecommunion.

What is ‘Antecommunion’?

The prefix *ante-* means ‘before’, so the service of Antecommunion is the Service of Holy Communion before, or leading up to and excluding, the actual celebration of Communion. Basically from the Organ Voluntary to the Offertory, this is the non-sacramental part of the Communion liturgy. The only difference is that Antecommunion is done on purpose, and ends with a few different prayers, making this specifically the Service of Antecommunion rather than the Service of Holy Communion

Why would anyone do this?

Antecommunion is a uniquely Anglican practice. Early in our church tradition, provision was made for the celebration of Holy Communion every Sunday and major Holy Days of the year, *but*, people were not used to such frequent reception of Communion, and despite the Reformers’ best efforts, the average English believer still only came to the Holy Table once a month at best. The priests, however, were still expected to fulfill the liturgical demands of the Book of Common Prayer, and so provision had to be made for situations in which there was a Service of Holy Communion offered but no communicants prepared to receive Holy Communion.

Now that Anglicans almost the world over are accustomed to weekly Communion, this “need” for Antecommunion is no longer common. If your parish priest is unexpectedly sick on a Sunday morning, then a Deacon or Lay Minister could lead an Antecommunion service instead, since it’s almost identical to the regular Communion service.

St. Paul’s Staff: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; Dr. Timothy Flynn, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Jackie Womble, Christian Formation Director; Mr. Christopher Hart, Interim Sexton; Ms. Ciera Wilson, Nursery Attendant; Ms. Kathy Vogel, Wedding Coordinator.

St. Paul’s Vestry: Maria Wawro, Sr. Warden; Sue LeDuc, Jr. Warden; Jack Baker, Jane Bryce, Michael Hart, Jennifer Humphries, Bob Merriman, Dave Parks, Libby Richardson, Margaret Schulte, Gloria Sutton, Jeff Irwin, Treasurer, Sally Boron, Secretary.

Please prepare yourself for worship. Find a space where you can be comfortable and undisturbed for awhile. Perhaps have a small cross and/or a candle placed on a small table by you.

Take a moment to be still and think of all those who will be joining you this morning in prayer.

The Day of the Resurrection
April 12, 2020

The people standing, the Officiant says

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

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.

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit

First Lesson**Jeremiah 31:1-6***Reader* A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.****Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;*
 his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim,*
 "His mercy endures for ever."
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song,*
 and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory*
 in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!*"
 the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
 the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
- 17 I shall not die, but live,*
 and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely,*
 but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;*
 I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord;*"
 he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me*
 and have become my salvation
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected*
 has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing,*
 and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted;*"
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

An Easter Sermon by John Chrysostom

This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and I decided to share a sermon with you preached by John Chrysostom (ca. 347-407), known as “the golden mouthed preacher”. Chrysostom was educated in the disciplines of rhetoric and law but ended up living an ascetic life until he almost ruined his health. He left the monastic life and was ordained a deacon in 381 and an elder in 386. His primary role as an elder was preaching. He was committed to reform, both the moral leniency of clergy and the moral corruptness of the city. He spoke truth boldly. Toward the end of his life, he was exiled because he defied an imperial order. While in exile he died. I invite you to read, ponder and meditate on the truth expounded by John Chrysostom in this fourth century, Easter sermon.

“Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden! Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness.

Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed Hell when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said, ‘You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.’ Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar because it is mocked. It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive. Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.

O death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

The People stand

The 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:
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.

Prayers of the People

Please stand or sit for the prayers

Gathered around Christ crucified and risen, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

Awaken the Church, that it may boldly proclaim the new creation we celebrate on this resurrection day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up political and civic leaders who will bring forth a springtime of care for the poor and those most vulnerable among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deepen our reverence for the earth and all its creatures, that we may marvel at your works and rejoice at each new day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw to your heart all those weighed down by grief or anxiety; those absent or forgotten; and those homebound, hospitalized or ill especially those on our parish prayer list; those battling COVID-19, and those we now name either silently or aloud _____; that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be known to us as we eat and drink at your table, that we may live as the risen body of Christ in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant grace to all who have died and for all who grieve, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find light perpetual and blessed assurance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give strength and courage to those who work tirelessly to keep us safe and tend our needs during this pandemic; we pray especially for all health care workers, first responders, truck drivers, store workers and all those who work for us in this time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May it be granted to all gathered in this worshiping community, that we, like Mary, may see the tomb empty, and joyfully believing, walk in newness of life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant concludes the prayers saying

Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer on Sunday

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of our creation, in earth and sky and sea, **we thank you, Lord.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ, **we thank you, Lord.**

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends, **we thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve, **we thank you, Lord.**

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play, **we thank you, Lord.**

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity, **we thank you, Lord.**

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice, **we thank you, Lord.**

For the communion of saints, in all times and places, **we thank you Lord.**

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; to him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Receive the good news: Christ is risen from the dead.

Tell the good news: the power of death shall no more oppress us.

Live the good news: we are free to love as he has loved us.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Please remember to check St. Paul's Facebook page regularly for updated notices, prayers and videos and opportunities for online giving.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between

preserving their health or making their rent

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember

those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those

who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

Amen.

Author unknown

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

April 12, 2020

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Margaret (Peggy) Richardson, Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Sebastian Cuesta, Clint Hogue, John & Grace Hawkins, Julie, Van Anderson, Marian Boulus, Nancy Rudd, Meadow Rawlins, Thomasina Canty, Anna Hayward, Harvey Clark & Mary Armstrong, Michelle Levenick, Norma Lindholm, Audrey & David, Pat Bellinger, Joanne Boulton, Megan Timm, Claudia Hamlin, Amy Eldridge, Ronda Peters, Erica, Marta & Venancio, Mike Jacobs, Rick Wendorf, Chris Krupka, Paul Doersam, Jason Thomas, Robert Madrigal, Joy Brewer, William Gabel, Pat Seger-Krawczynski, April Cruz, Karlene Bach, Sally Boron, Pam & John Irwin, Kate Johnson, Delaine Counsellor, Doug, Jeff Waters, David Hemingway, Max Pierce, Michael Crouch, Terry Bryce, Sherry Sutton, Danielle Laurion, Michael O'Toole, Penny, Peggy, Karen Clarke, Eric, Amy Crabtree, Judy Manson, Patricia McMartin, Doug Boor, and Jane Bryce.

We pray and remember those in the Military, and those who are serving in dangerous areas: Brendan Moody, Zachariah Reeves, Zachary Bellinger, Conrad Laurion, Alex Van Koevering, Tyson Carter, and Amy Peryea.

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members & family:

Amanda Lawton, Laura Le Duc & Conrad & Olin Moyer, Sue Le Duc, and Joe Lehning.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Sq. Lansing, MI 48933

We pray for our worshipping communities: Church of the Great Commission, Dona Lila, DR; Christ United, Dewitt; St. Elizabeth's, Redford.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of the Land of the Holy One.

We pray for: Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; our worship ministers, and staff at St. Paul's.