

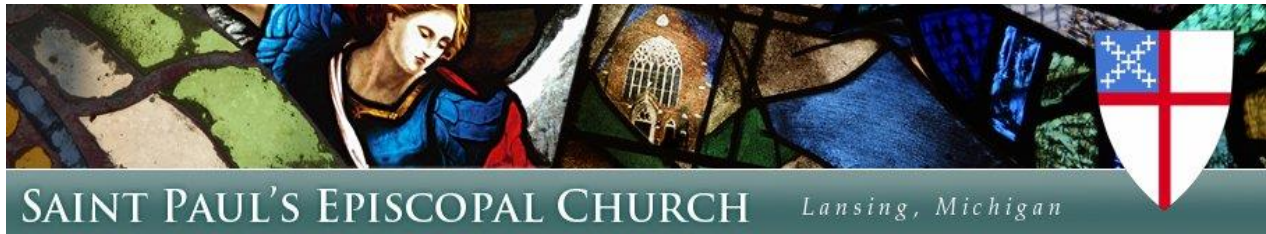
“Our Welcome”

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 Second Sunday of Easter ---April 11, 2021 Ante-Communion

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
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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; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Ciera Hart, Nursery Attendant; Ms. Kathy Vogel, Wedding Coordinator

St. Paul’s Vestry: Dave Parks, Sr. Warden; Sue Le Duc, Jr. Warden; Jack Baker, Jane Bryce, Diane Clark, Graham Crabtree, Michael Hart, Susan Henderson, Martha Seaman McKee, 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 11, 2021

PRELUDE

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.**

The People say together

**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 and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:32-35

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is,*
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head*
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron,*
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon*
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:*
life for evermore.

SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

Reader A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader A reading from the gospel of John.

When it was evening of the day of Resurrection, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

The Rev'd Dcn. Dr. Timothy Flynn

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

On this day we praise our God for the dying which destroyed our death, and we pray for our world in need of life, saying: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord calls us to examine the wounded hands and feet of the risen one and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us approach Christ in faith and share the good news with all we meet. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

The apostles received the Holy Spirit and the grace to lighten the burdens of one another's sin. May Michael our presiding bishop, Bonnie our bishop, and the church be faithful to this gift. May all the baptized live with abundant compassion for all, especially for those shut out from society. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ calls us blest who have not seen, yet believe. May more and more of God's people and all the created order become a sign of the resurrection in the world, and may our faith give courage to the doubting. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We are strengthened by Christ's resurrection to share the power of the Spirit with all the suffering. We pray for all in any need especially victims of violence and the oppressed; those struggling with COVID-19 and those who care for them; for the lonely and the forgotten; for those on our parish prayer list and those we now name either silently or aloud _____. May the power of Christ's resurrection give life to all who have little reason to hope. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

May that morning star which never sets, Christ our light, find us burning with charity until the world is enlightened with love. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those having died in the faith and for all the dying, that they may know the love of God who has raised Christ up, having loosed the pangs of death. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Officiant concludes the prayers saying

Eternally creative God, give us the faith and courage to recreate the world in your image. We ask this in the name of the risen one, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**
Let us pray together in the words that our Lord taught us

**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 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY EASTER 2A

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair but whose presence is overwhelming: breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People say together

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.**

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A BLESSING OF THE WHOLE PERSON

God our creator,
you have made each one of us in every part.
Bless us through and through, that we may delight to serve you to the full.
Bless our eyes, that we may discern the beauty you give.
Bless our ears, that we may hear you in the music of sounds.
Bless our sense of smell, that your fragrance may fill our being.
Bless our lips, that we may speak your truth, and sing your joy.
Bless our hands, that they may play, write and touch as you guide them.
Bless our feet, that they may be messengers of your peace.
Bless our imaginations, that we may be fired with wonder in your truth.
Bless our hearts, that they may be filled with your love.
Bless us through and through, that we may delight to serve you to the full,
through Jesus Christ, who took our nature to make us whole. **Amen.**

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.

Prayers of the People adapted from 'Intercessions for Christian People'
Prayer of the Day Easter 2A and A blessing of the whole person from A Prayer Book for
Australia

POSTLUDE

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



**We bless you and we praise you,
Lord Christ, for commanding us
to love one another. Let this mask
be a sign of your love, and let my
behavior be filled with love for
my neighbor. Amen.**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

April 4, 2021

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Margaret (Peggy) Richardson, Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Sebastian Cuesta, Clint Hogue, John Hawkins, Julie, Van Anderson, Marian Boulus, Nancy Rudd, Meadow Rawlins, Anna Hayward, Harvey Clark & Mary Armstrong, Michelle Levenick, Norma Lindholm, Audrey & David, Pat Bellinger, Joanne Boulton, Claudia Hamlin, Ronda Peters, Erica, Marta & Venancio, Mike Jacobs, Rick Wendorf, Chris Krupka, Paul Doersam, Robert Madrigal, Joy Brewer, William Gabel, Pat Seger-Krawczynski, April Cruz, Sally Boron, Pam & John Irwin, Kate Johnson, Doug, Jeff Waters, David Hemingway, Max Pierce, Michael Crouch, Sherry Sutton, Danielle Laurion, Michael O'Toole, Penny, Peggy, Karen Clarke, Eric, Amy Crabtree, Judy Manson, Patricia McMartin, Doug Boor, Craig, Odie, Leonard, Sarah, Larry Gut, Delaine Counsellor, Ellie Doersam, Gail & Bill Kendall, Lynn Dayton, Herb Tanner & Stacey O'Toole, Brian Baker, Margo Rudd, Barb Webb, Barb Heany, Jim Ewing, Jerry Simpson, Jane Bryce, and David Kovac.

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, Amy Peryea, Suzette Bauman, John Bellinger, Doug Laurion, Erika Harkness Wilson, McKenzie Counsellor, and Josh Cramer.

We pray for those who have died: Especially Kathy and Christian Nichol, parents of Scott Nichol; and Andre Stewart, one of our homeless friends.

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members & family: Earl Bowland; Jane Bryce; Ray & JoAnn Chase; and Jim & Barbara Clark.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Action of Greater Lansing, 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing 48911

We pray for our worshipping communities: St. Barnabas', Chelsea; Church of the Redeemer, Barahona, DR; and All Saints', Pontiac.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S April 11, 2021 – April 18, 2021</p>
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Sunday, 4/11:	8:00am	Holy Eucharist – Online
Monday, 4/12:		
Tuesday, 4/13:		
Wednesday, 4/14:	12:00pm 7:00pm	Noon Book Study – Zoom Wednesday Bible Study - Zoom
Thursday, 4/15:	7:00am 1:30pm 7:00pm	Men's Breakfast – Zoom Those Living Alone – Zoom Choir Meeting – Zoom
Friday, 4/16:		
Saturday, 4/17:		
Sunday, 4/18:	8:00am	Ante-Communion – Online

