

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER – Rachel's Day

Since 1997 St. Paul's Women of the ELCA have been observing Rachel's Day on the first Sunday in May. Brought before the triennial convention in 1996, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of Women of the ELCA, encouraged each synodical women's group to decry violence against children. Rachel's Day is observed to uplift all children but especially those living in violence, those underserved through poverty, those abused and neglected, and those suffering with physical and/or mental illness. Today we uplift all of God's children, since each one of us is loved unconditionally by Our Caring and Compassionate God.

Prelude Children of the Heavenly Father, arr. by Robert A. Hobby c. 2002 by Augsburg Fortress in "For All the Saints: Hymn Preludes for Funerals"

Announcements

GREETERS – Kathy Depaoli, Pam Ewing, Karen Ness

USHERS – Vinni Carey & Lena Warner

Opening Hymn "There Is A Balm in Gilead"

ELW 614

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED – A CALL TO WORSHIP – Jeanette Richard

*We pray for children in our communities who live
without either of their parents:
children whose parents have died,
children who have been abandoned,
children taken away from their parents because of abuse or neglect,
and children who have run away from home.*

*You care for these little ones God,
and not one of them is lost from your sight.
Guide, guard and protect these children
as they move in with relatives.
as they live with foster parents
as they are adopted into new families
or as they struggle on the street.*

*Comfort each one who feels unloved, unwanted and afraid.
Give wisdom to people who make decisions about children's lives.
Empower those who care for them to be loving and compassionate.
Instill in our government leaders a passion for protecting the most vulnerable.
Help us to reach out as individuals and as a congregation
to those who live without the protection and love of parents.
We also pray for parents and children who have been wrongly separated,
that you will end their agony and help them to be reunited.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, who loves the little ones. Amen.*

By Carol Penner

Children's Message "Happy Are They ..."

Paula Rosenbeck

"If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap your hands;

Vs. 2, Stomp your feet; Vs. 3. Shout A-men!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY – Kathy Olkowski

Please pray with me: Teach us your ways, O God. Bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our swords and be peacemakers. Use us, work through us, and, if necessary, work in spite of us, to mend Your world's brokenness. We thank You for Your protecting embrace, and unfailing love. We ask all this in the name of Our Lord, and Savior, the Healer, the Peacemaker, and the Counsellor. **C Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 – Bath Brower

¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

PSALM 30

May Friday

- ¹ I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lift-¹ ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph¹ over me.
- ² **O Lord my God, I cried¹ out to you,
and you restored¹ me to health.**
- ³ You brought me up, O Lord,¹ from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down¹ to the grave.
- ⁴ **Sing praise to the Lord,¹ all you faithful;
give thanks in ho-¹ ly remembrance.**
- ⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor¹ lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes¹ in the morning.
- ⁶ **While I felt se-¹ cure, I said,
"I shall never¹ be disturbed.**
- ⁷ You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong¹ as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was¹ filled with fear.
- ⁸ **I cried to¹ you, O Lord;
I pleaded with¹ my Lord, saying,**
- ⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down¹ to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de-¹ clare your faithfulness?
- ¹⁰ **Hear, O Lord, and have mer-¹ cy upon me;
O Lord,¹ be my helper."**
- ¹¹ You have turned my wailing¹ into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed¹ me with joy.
- ¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you¹ without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you¹ thanks forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 5: 11-14 Linda Rosa

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation Page 142

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-12 Pamela Little

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Sad, Tired and Angry: A Reflection on Violence
Based on a Work by James Martin S.J.

Narrator: Pamela Little

Reader 1: Lena Warner

Reader 2: Leah Seleman

Reader 3: Karen Marciano

CONGREGATION:
Help me
To be **COMPASSIONATE**,
To **ADVOCATE**,
And to **ACT**, as Your Son did,
Almighty God,
Amen.

Hymn of the Day

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, Copyright © 1955, Renewed 1983 by Jan-Lee Music.
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Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our creator
We are family,
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Beth Brower & Rosie Foth

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Dear Lord, Your Word is filled with accounts of miraculous protection. We claim that power for vulnerable children. Make Your little ones invisible to people who seek to exploit them. Whisper in the ears of these children to run and hide until the danger passes. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

Lord, we know You love all children, and we pray that when they must work, that You would protect their growing bodies. Keep them safe and free of injuries. You are our Provider, and we know that all good things come from You. Help families to find reliable jobs so their children don't have to work. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

Dear Lord, Your Word calls us to hunger and thirst for righteousness – a righteousness that leads to compassion for the poor and renewing our minds. Protect our children from a childhood of abuse and suffering. Lead us to the kind of faith that helps us work together for a better world for all children. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

Father God, lay a blanket of protection over all children who cannot attend school, especially those whose education is disrupted by conflict, emergencies, gun violence, or natural disasters. We know You created children with a curiosity to learn about their world. Give each child the chance to explore the world through their studies. We ask You to raise up godly leaders who will change the way children are treated, opening the possibility for fuller lives and futures filled with promise. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

Dear God, there are times when it is right – and righteous – to be angry. It is right to be angry about people who exploit children. Let that righteous anger fuel action, and don't let it fade into complacency. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

Nurture our children in Your ways; feed them abundantly by Your wisdom and truth. Reorient their desires from violent video games; suppress their greed for gangster rap; harness their hunger to humiliate and degrade others because of their race, gender, or sexual orientation; and free their minds, mouths, and bodies of derogatory terms and foul gestures, for these are also destructive weapons. Speak, Lord,

C Your children are listening.

By your power, Great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Heal wounds. soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign, that though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Christ. We pray especially for those on our prayer list (first names are read) and those we name silently or aloud. *(Pause.)* Speak, Lord,

Your children are listening.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*These prayers are adapted from World Vision (www.worldvision.org)

SHARING THE PEACE

LEADER: THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

PLEASE SHARE A SIGN OF GOD'S PEACE.

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED, AND THE TABLE IS PREPARED.

ANTHEM: LEANING INTO JESUS WORDS – PATRICIA MOCK
MUSIC – PATTI DRENNAN

I'm leaning into Jesus for his mercies new each day, leaning into Jesus for the wisdom of his ways. I'm leaning into Jesus when my heart cries out in fear leaning into Jesus when my eyes are filled with tears. I find his perfect peace when waves roll over me giving him full control, yielding my heart and soul. When my path is shining bright, or in the dark of night, I'm leaning into Jesus, into his loving arms. I'm leaning into Jesus as blue skies turn to Gray, leaning into Jesus when I lose my way. I'm leaning into Jesus for his mercies new each day, leaning into Jesus for the wisdom of his ways. I find his perfect peace when waves roll over me, giving him full control, yielding my heart and soul. When my path is shining bright, or in the dark of night, I'm leaning into Jesus, into his loving arms. He is my shelter safe, giver of strength and grace; I'm leaning on his everlasting arms. Oh what a refuge sure, in him I rest secure; I'm leaning on his everlasting arms. I'm leaning into Jesus.

THE OFFERTORY IS SUNG ELW 678 V. 1

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store: nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door, gifted by you, we turn to you, off'ring up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

OFFERING PRAYER - Carmela Sanzo

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
as you were made known to the disciples.

Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives,
that we may be your risen body in the world.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now let us feast this Easter day
on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

The Great Thanksgiving –

L The Lord be with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Pg. 144

C And also with you.

C We lift them to the Lord.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface is spoken

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Pg. 144

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

Leader continues with the Great Thanksgiving.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

The Agnus Dei

Pg 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace,
Lamb of God.

All are welcome to the table of the Lord.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music *Balm in Gilead, arr. by L. N. Porter c. 1969 by Lorenz Publishing Co.
in the April 1969 issue of "The Organ Portfolio"*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - Liz Falls

Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION – Pamela Little

May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”

ELW 543

DISMISSAL – Karen Ness

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, arr. by Lani Smith lyrics and tune c. 1955 by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, assigned to Jan-Lee Music arrangement c. 1989 by Jan-Lee Music, published by Lorenz Publishing Co. in the June 1989 issue of "The Organ Portfolio"

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A place for you

of the
Women ELCA 

The women's ministry organization of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Around the Church

Event	Date	Time
Blood Drive	5/5	9:00 am
Finance Meeting	5/7	6:30 pm
Blessing of the Bikes	5/10	10:00 am
Council Meeting	5/12	7:00 pm
Church Picnic	5/18	After Service
Yankee Chorale Concert	5/18	4:00 pm
Breakfast Men Acs Women George's	5/21	8:30 am
Synod Assembly	5/30-31	
Pentecost & Confirmation	6/8	10:00 am
New Member Reception	6/22	10:00 am
VBS	Week of 8/4	9:00 am

Bible Study Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm
and in person Wednesday mornings at
10:00 am.

Tai Chi 11:00 am Wednesdays
Quilting Group 1:00 pm Wednesdays



Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly	\$4,561
Received	\$2,770.78
Shortfall	(\$1,790.22)
YTD shortfall	(\$19,743.22)



BLESSING OF THE BIKES & BIKE SHOW



WHEN: May 10, 2025 (rain date 5/17)
Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
837 Charles Street, Torrington CT
Time: 10:00 – 2:00

Lunch! Trophies
Music! 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place &
Fun! People's Choice
Show Entry Fee: \$10



Come enjoy a lunch, good music and show
while receiving the blessing for a safe riding
season.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Kay Ackley
Francine Ahrens
Ben, Sheryl & Nik Ahrens
Peggy Ali
Joyce Almsted

Connie Aparo
Phil Bascetta
Eli Boda
Diane Boscarino
Kathleen Bowler

Cherie Brown
Sharon Cable
Nancy Campbell
Carol Cianciolo
Cheryl Corey

Emma Cortina
Leif Dallaire
Emily Decker
Linda Dellano
Carla Derrickson

Sigrid Devita
Irene Douglas
Judy Elliott
Mark Ebbeskotte
Jan Eucalitto

Jennifer Ezzo
Bruce & Liz Falls
Eric Fernandez
Tommy Fitzpatrick
Ashley Friday

Rosemarie Foth
John Fox
Joan Gerard
Danise Hall
Jack & Barbara Heintz

Brayden Herzberg
Charles Hilton
Kathleen Hilton
Shannon Hilton
Jake Hoadley

Sven Holmgren
Erma Horn
Ann Jones
Eunice Jones
Lynn Killingbeck

Marilyn Killingbeck
Maria Koskovich
Jason Lashbrook
John Lewis
David Little

Rebecca Little
Kari Machowski
Mary Ellen Mackinnon
Jerry MacManus
Audrey & Ernie Marquard

Abigail Marine
Eric Marine
Richard Marine
Janis Martin
Gil & Marilyn Martin

Gladys Medina
Michael Meyers
Kate Merrow
Colin Moore
Brigitte Mueller
Martin Mueller

Dennis Nalette
Karen Ness
Tom O'Brien
Lea Orriola & family
Russell Palmer

Maria Payne
Jackie Quinn Wassik
Caroline Quintal
Ed & Susan Regner
Jonathan Richard

Louise Roche
Holly Schaff
Judy Schaller
Rosemary & Otto Schibi
Denae Seelye

Patricia Weingart Seymour
Rob Simon
Matt Simpson
Dana Steele

Sigrid Smitley
Paul Smith
Dana & George Steele
Jennifer Stella
Deb & Jon Sterling

RuthAnn Stone
Diane Tanner
Gloria Thibault
Andy Thomas
Julia Thompson Carroll

Susan Tycienski
Steve Warner
Renee Woodard
Clarence & Priscilla
Ed

Jen O.
Jaiden
Shirley
Steve
Lou W.

Steve
Todd
Robert K.
Terry
Joe

Rosie
Carol G.
Kristen & Jared
Vinny
Hagbard

Carolina
Robert P.
Peanut
Colleen
Ken

Kathy
Jaxson
Gail
F.C.H.
Chantel

Our Nursing Home Members

Dee Gammon
Midge Rosenbeck
Calvin Bensch
Judy Schaller

Our Military Friends

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.
Tyler Quinn
Eric Beyus
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Jr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
S/W Anderson James Ernst
USCG
SPC Dominic Boscarino
PVT Noah Braatz
PVT 2 Christian Braatz

Family and Friends of Christine Esker