

**MOUNT  
OLIVE**  
Saint Paul

---

May 12, 2024 // 11:30am

**Sunday Worship** // *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*Pastor Joel Gawrisch*

---

**Welcome // Introduction // Call to Worship**

## **Call to Worship**

🎵 **(Soloist) Alleluia, Alleluia**  
**Praise the One, Risen Son of God**

Psalm 139

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

5 You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.  
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"  
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

### **Opening Praise // Before the Throne of God Above**

Original words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1892), music and alt. words by Vikki Cook.  
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP  
CCLI: #2306412

**♪ 1 Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart**

**♪ 3 I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love**

## **Prayer of Confession**

P(astor): Almighty, infinite Father,

As we come to you today to confess our weakness and rebellion against you, we thank you that you have chosen to love desperate sinners like ourselves. Your love and determination to rescue us from our sin give us the courage to admit the profound depravity of our desires, thoughts, and actions.

**C(congregation): We are people who want *our* kingdoms to come and *our* will to be done.**

P: Instead of pursuing spiritual wisdom with all our strength, we are delighted by our own wisdom and impressed with our own understanding. We despise your will, because it is so much stronger than ours and reminds us that we are not the gods we wish to be. We want to be worthy of your love instead of resting in the radiant worthiness of your Son.

**C(congregation): Father, forgive us.**

P: Holy Spirit, our counselor, comforter, and keeper, remind us that while we live here on earth, we will continue to be weak sinners. In the midst of our many failures, give us joy in the cross and delight in our salvation. Humble us with our inability, and fill us daily with a fresh love for you that makes us long to delight you with our thoughts and actions.

**C: Holy Spirit, our advocate, convict us of these sins.**

P: Please give us strong faith to believe that you are always for us and never against us, no matter how often we fall. When Satan tempts us to despair because of the profound sin that still entrances us, remind us that we have a Savior who stands before the throne of God interceding for us. Give us spiritual wisdom to behold our risen Lamb, perfect, spotless, and worthy to receive all our worship, adoration, and praise.

♪ **2 When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me**

P: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *(Hebrews 4:16)*

*(a moment to reflect on our deserved standing before a Holy and just God, and the wonder of His invitation to approach his Heavenly throne)*

## **Forgiveness of Sins**

P: Wonderful, merciful Savior, we thank you that you have disarmed the wrath of God. Though we are slow to bear fruit and prone to run far from you, you have paid for all our rebellion and weakness. By taking our sin upon yourself and giving us your perfect obedience, you have made us worthy to stand before God, confident that his justice is satisfied. Thank you for your nail-pierced hands, and for bearing all our sin and shame.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. *(Romans 8:1-2)*

Children of God, believe the good news!  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

♪ **4 Behold Him there, the risen Lamb**  
**My perfect, spotless Righteousness**  
**The great unchangeable I AM**  
**The King of glory and of grace**  
**One with Himself, I cannot die**  
**My soul is purchased by His blood**  
**My life is hid with Christ on high**  
**With Christ my Savior and my God**  
**With Christ my Savior and my God**

♪ **Alleluia, Alleluia**  
**Praise the One, Risen Son of God (x3)**

## **Kids' Message**

**God's Word - First Lesson** // Acts 1:1-11 ESV

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the

apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

### **God’s Word - Second Lesson** // Ephesians 4:7-16 ESV

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8 This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

9 (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

## Verse of the Day // Matthew 28:20b

Alleluia “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Alleluia

## God’s Word - Gospel Lesson // Luke 24:44-53 ESV

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

## Hymn of the Day // Our God will Go Before Us

Words and Music by: Keith Getty, Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

© 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns

CCLI Song # 7218329

**♪ 1 Our God will go before us  
And guide us by His presence  
What confidence this promise is  
We will never walk alone**

**♪ 2 Through unknown paths through shadows  
Our hearts fear not tomorrow  
For every step His faithfulness  
Is the truth that lights our way**

**♪ Chorus  
Our God will go before us  
The Lord of Hosts is with us  
O praise the One who leads us on**

**For His grace will bring us home**

♪ **3 Though evil forms against us  
All heaven will defend us  
The gates of hell shall not prevail  
For the battle is the Lord's**

♪ **Chorus**

♪ **4 Now send us with Your presence  
And lead us on to heaven  
Where songs of sorrow strain no more  
And our every breath is praise**

♪ **Chorus x2  
For His grace will bring us home**

**Sermon Message // Luke 24:44-53**

**Profession of Faith // Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Lord's Prayer**

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**Offering //**

## Thanksgiving on Mother's Day //

P(astor): On this day when much of our country is honoring the gift of mothers, let us join in giving thanks for women of faith who have been given the gift of bringing forth life, who have raised and nurtured their children with the Word, who have trustingly born the heartache of loss or inability to have children, who continuously pray for those in need, and who journey along with us towards our heavenly home.

P: Eternal God, in the beauty of Eden you created a man and a woman and brought them together in marriage. You enabled them to be fruitful and increase in number and so you established the family. Help us to see in your creating wisdom your love for parents and children.

**All: Move us to be thankful for mothers and fathers and for all the blessings you bring to our homes.**

P: Today we remember the mothers who loved us even before we were born, who endured the trauma of childbirth, and who cared for us when we could not care for ourselves. On this day and on other days cause us to recall the hours they spent and the sacrifices they made so that we could be content and carefree as we grew up.

**All: Lead us to express our thanks and return the love our mothers showed to us.**

P: We cannot thank you enough for mothers and fathers, too, who brought us to Holy Baptism, taught us simple prayers at mealtime, and read us Bible stories at bedtime. Forgive us for resenting their correction and ignoring their guidance as they desired to keep us on the narrow path of life with Christ.

**All: Never let us forget the Christian training they gave to us.**

P: We remember with compassion the mothers who were not always able to reflect your love in our lives. Help us understand the pressures they carried and the sadness they experienced. Take away unhappy memories and rid us of resentment.

**All: Lead us to forgive them as you have forgiven us.**

P: We confess our failures to hold our parents in love. For the naughtiness of childhood, the flare-ups of youth, the overconfidence of adulthood, and for all the words and actions spoken in haste and to hurt, we ask you and our parents for pardon.

**All: Give us courage to make up for past sins when we can.**

P: As their minds and bodies age, help us to support our parents as well as we can. Give us patience to accept their struggles for independence and strength to deal with their



weaknesses. Enable us to keep them mindful of Jesus and his promises of a perfect life in heaven.

**All: As they brought us to your Word, so lead us to keep them close to your Word.**

P: Keep in your care all the mothers of our world. Comfort mothers who have been separated from their children. Give strength to mothers who care for children who are sick or troubled. Encourage mothers in societies where mothering is disrespected or discouraged. We pray especially for those who long to be mothers but have not been so blessed.

**All: We pray you to preserve and protect the blessed task of motherhood.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

P: So many women have influenced our lives. Lead us to think about their wisdom, compassion, patience, and encouragement and give us opportunities to say thank you when we can. Help us imitate their care for us as we work and play with children and young adults.

**All: Strengthen us to love others as Jesus loved us. Amen.**

**Blessing //**

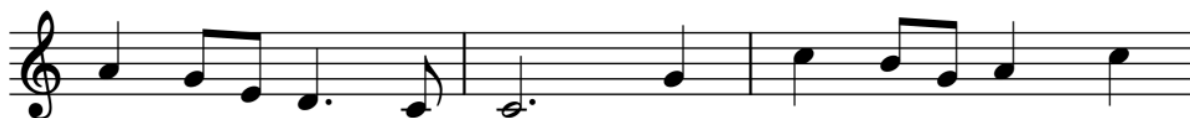
**Closing Hymn //** For all the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en, now and in days of  
 2 O God for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un-  
 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the



old, to you shall thanks be giv - en; to  
 known in whom through all the a - ges your  
 Son! All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, who



all their sto - ry told. You served with strength and  
 light of glo - ry shone, we of - fer glad thanks -  
 binds the Church in one! With saints who went be -



glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave; to  
 giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise that,  
 fore us, with saints who wit - ness still, we



you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.  
 faith-ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
 sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.