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**HIGHLY FAVORED**  
**I TREASURE YOUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY**  
May 14, 15, and 18, 2022

*God commands men to be spiritual leaders. Yet all too often men are spiritually lazy. One wonders if there might be a connection. In contrast, we find that women are often spiritually stronger than men with a deeper thirst for spiritual connection. What blessing might ensue if men were to acknowledge, appreciate, and lean into women's spiritual strengths!*



**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S**

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online by scanning the QR Code on the left.

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN 160**

**This Joyful Eastertide**

**This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**Death's flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number.  
Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
But now is Christ arisen!**

**HOLY BAPTISM** (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

**Brittany Li Shar Palenski**  
**Stella Rose Palenski**

*Daughter of Mark and Brittany (nee Holeon) Palenski, born July 27, 2020*

O Father, who creates and sustains all life,  
**may your Word encourage us as we recall the stories of your unfailing love.**

O Son, who restores life to us by your death and resurrection,  
**may your Word revive our weary souls with the message of your forgiving love.**

O Spirit, who daily regenerates life within in us,  
**may your Word fill us with the power of your renewing love. Amen.**

Dear friends, how great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.

**And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)**

The apostle John calls us to love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:7,8). We do not love like God love us. As we come before our God today, let us, therefore, confess our lack of love for others and the many sins that flow from our love of self.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### RESPONSE HYMN 153, vv. 1, 2

**Alleluia! Jesus Lives**

**Alleluia! Jesus lives! He is now the living one;  
From the gloomy house of death Forth the conqueror has gone,  
Bright forerunner to the skies  
Of his people, yet to rise.**

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice; Praise him, ransomed ones of earth.  
Praise him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway  
Sin and death and hell obey.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, you are a God of mercy and grace. You will not always accuse. Nor will you harbor your anger forever.

**You do not treat us as we deserve or repay us according to our iniquities (Psalm 103:9,10).**

Give us hearts that fully grasp the significance of these words.

**We are infinitely loved! No matter what, we can approach your throne with freedom and confidence.**

Now, Lord, empower us to do what is even more difficult: to believe these truths and truly make them our own. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

**Judges 4**, Bible page 241

*God uses Deborah and Jael to rescue his people.*

## THE SONG OF HANNAH – 1 SAMUEL 2 (*Saturday, Sunday 7:45 and 10:45 am, Wednesday*)

My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high.

**My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.**

There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you;

**there is no Rock like our God.**

Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance,

**for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.**

She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

**The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.**

The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

**He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;**

**he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.**

For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them he has set the world.

**He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.**

It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the LORD will be broken.

**The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.**

**He will give strength to his King and exalt the horn of his Anointed.**

**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.**

ANTHEM (*Sunday 9:15 am*)

**Hope in the Lord**

*J. Townswick Bassler, M. Hyun, M. Kiecker, C Pufahl, K. Sonnenburg  
Sung by LES Junior Choir*

GOSPEL

**Luke 7:36-50**, Bible page 1035

*Meet a woman whose spiritual maturity and courage surpassed that of the male spiritual leaders who were seated at a dinner.*

CONFESSION 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

**God of the Women Who Answered Your Call**

**God of the women who answered your call,  
Trusting your promises, giving their all,  
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —  
Give us their courage to live in your truth.**

**God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,  
Giving their resources, learning to pray,  
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —  
May we give freely as they did before.**

**God of the women long put to the test,  
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —  
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.**

**God of the women who ran from the tomb,  
Prayed with the others in that upper room,  
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —  
May we so gladly proclaim you today.**

HOLY BAPTISM (Sunday 10:45 am)

Rosalie Christine Dragotta

Daughter of Dustin and Tanya (nee Lightcap) Dragotta, born February 5, 2022

*After the sermon, the congregation sings:*

**O God of Phoebe and ministers all,  
May we be joyful in answering your call.  
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near  
That we may share in your ministry here.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**Drive out all doubt and gloom, that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## CLOSING HYMN 469, vv. 1, 2, 6

## Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

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.



## ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION