



# Saint Paul's Parish

174 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

(Episcopal/Anglican)

(203) 775-9587 (Office)

[www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com](http://www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com)

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Preacher & Celebrant

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us this morning.  
We pray you experience the presence and love of Christ  
as we worship together!

### Saint Paul's Staff

Priest-in-Charge

Priest Emeritus

Wardens

Warden Emeritus

Vestry Members:

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

The Rev. John E. Morrison, III

Chris Barrett and Mary Beth Durkin

Lois Hunt

Jim Miller-*Treasurer*, David Williams-*Clerk*, Jeff Chowanec, Geoff Dent,

JoAnn Hornak, Tim Huber, Mike Kirner, Kagan Kronberg,

Ned Marcalus, Diane Peterson, Bill Schrull, Andrea White

Kirsten Peterson

Kagan Kronberg

Mary Perry

Organist and Choirmaster

Sunday School Administrator

Operations Director

*All stand as able***Opening Hymn**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

[Hymnal 390](#)**The Word of the Lord**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: 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.**

**Gloria in excelsis** (*Please stand as able*) “Glory to God”

Hymnal S-280



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together. **O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23 *(in Unison)*

**The LORD is my shepherd; \***

**I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

**He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## The Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in

his steps.

“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Response

“Day by day, dear Lord”  
*(Verse 1)*

[Hymnal 654](#)

*(Please stand as able for the Gospel)*

### The Gospel

**John 15:1-26**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world - therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’”

Celebrant:     The Gospel of the Lord.  
People:        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel Response**

“Day by day, dear Lord”  
*(Verse 1)*

[Hymnal 654](#)

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee**

**The Nicene Creed**   *(Please stand as able)*

**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.

## The Prayers of the People

*Please stand, sit, or kneel as able for the prayers.*

Intercessor: Jesus, vine of life within us, prune away detachment from our hearts and cultivate us as strong dynamic branches that bear an abundance of the fruit of your love. Let us not wither, but flourish, as we abide always in you.  
Eternal God, source of infinite love,

**All: Let your seeds of compassion take root in our lives.**

Intercessor: Jesus, vine of life within us, bless all who give their lives in service to your Church, and walk with us through sometimes fallow fields and barren

orchards, as we seek the joy in knowing you are with us now in this brief life and forever in the next. We pray especially for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; for our Bishops, Jeffrey and Laura, for Fr. Nate; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Eternal God, source of infinite love,

**All: Let your seeds of compassion take root in our lives.**

Intercessor: Jesus, vine of life within us, grant us the desire and courage to stand in faith and act together, before all who govern globally and locally, so that justice to anyone is never denied. We pray especially for the Peace of Jerusalem and in the Middle East. Eternal God, source of infinite love,

**All: Let your seeds of compassion take root in our lives.**

Intercessor: Jesus, vine of life within us, restore peace in the hearts of those who grieve, while the ones we love enter into Your perfect and everlasting life. We pray especially for Brian Matthew Simon, in whose memory the altar flowers are given. Eternal God, source of infinite love,

**All: Let your seeds of compassion take root in our lives.**

Intercessor: Jesus, vine of life within us, comfort and heal all who are poor in health and poor in spirit and bring them into the full power of your inexhaustible hope. We pause now as we pray aloud for those in any need and those who have asked for our prayers

*(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)*

Intercessor: Eternal God, source of infinite love,

**All: Let your seeds of compassion take root in our lives.**

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

Holy God, almighty vinegrower, prepare our souls as the living and fruitful soil that will bring forth the harvest of your love and peace, so that we may see, know, and nourish all people as our brothers and sisters. We ask this through our true vine, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, our guide, who together with you, live and reign as One God forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Please kneel as able*

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**All:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**Celebrant:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*All stand as able for hymns*

### **Offertory Hymn**

“I have decided to follow Jesus”

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
No turning back, no turning back.

Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
No turning back, no turning back.

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back.

Words: Simon Marak (1877-1975); Music: ASSAM, Hindustani melody

### **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise him above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

*(Remain standing as able)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. For you have given your Son Jesus Christ to be for us the true vine of life. Apart from him we can do no good thing. Abiding in him, we are nourished and empowered for services in your name.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

### Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*You may stand, sit or kneel.*

**Celebrant:** We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection

and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**All: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Celebrant: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Paul and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All: 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- *Please follow the ushers directions for receiving the Eucharist at the altar rail.*
- *Let an usher know if you prefer to remain seated at your pew for distribution of the Bread and Wine.*

**Communion Hymn**                    “Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”                    [Hymnal 343](#)

**Communion Hymn**                    “The King of love my shepherd is”                    [Hymnal 645](#)

## Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

Celebrant: Go now, and love one another, because love is from God. Proclaim God’s salvation to every generation. Remain in Jesus Christ, and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him. **Amen.**

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;

May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;

And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God’s love.

**Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**                    “All hail the power of Jesus’ Name”                    [Hymnal 450](#)

## Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

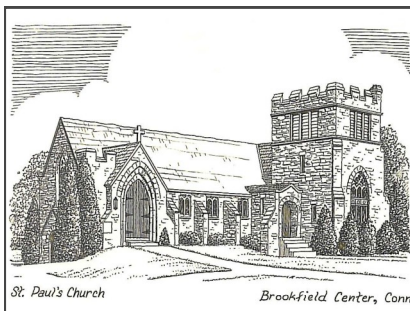
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation”

Johann Gottfried Walther



*“Celebrating 241 years in the Spirit”*

The altar flowers today are given by Bruce Simon  
in memory of Brian Matthew Simon.

**Altar Flowers** - If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday please see the 2026 Flower Chart in the back of the church, fill out an envelope located in the back of the church, send an email request to [dszen@yahoo.com](mailto:dszen@yahoo.com) or contact the parish office.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**Coffee Hour Conversations** - Continuing this morning between the services, we're holding a parish-wide event called: "Coffee Hour Conversations." Each Sunday, thru May 31st, as a whole parish we're gathering in Crocker Hall between the services for some open discussion about giving. Fr. Nate will be leading these discussions, alongside Dan Bacon, and our guide for this journey will be Randy Alcorn's inspiring little book: *The Treasure Principle*.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

**Drive-Thru Food Collection** - Our next Drive-Thru Food Collection will be this Wednesday, April 29th from 11 am to noon. This will be our 158th food drive since we started doing them in April 2020!

### UPCOMING:

**Mother's Day Memorials** - Mother's Day is May 10th. Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar in loving memory of a mother, please make your check payable to St. Paul's Church, with the name or names of those to be remembered on the memo line. All memorials are due by Sunday, May 3rd. Contact David Szen with any questions at 917-226-9136 or [dszen@yahoo.com](mailto:dszen@yahoo.com).

### OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

**Name Tags** - Please be courteous to fellow parishioners, newcomers, and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. You can leave them in the baskets at the doors as you leave for refiling. And remember to wear them to coffee hour.

**Sunday School** - Sunday School classes start at 11:45 am. Please bring your children directly to their classrooms.

**Prayer Needs?** - You can let us know by submitting your need on our website or emailing [prayerchain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com](mailto:prayerchain@saintpaulsbrookfield.com) and our team of intercessors will pray for your request or you can ask for a prayer servant to call you and we can pray together!

**The Priest-in-Charge Weekly** - Fr. Nate has a weekly e-mail, "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*," to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. If you did not receive his e-mail this week and would like to, write Fr. Nate at [priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com](mailto:priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com) and let him know.

**Our Facilities** - Our restrooms are located downstairs at the rear of our parish hall. Take the stairway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The restrooms are located on the far left, across from the kitchen. A play area for our young ones is also set up in the parish hall as well as live streaming and audio of the service on a wide screen TV. In addition, coloring book packages are available for youngsters to use in the pews. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

## Calendar For The Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

(Check website for up to date Zoom links - [www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com](http://www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com))

- Sun., April 26      8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)  
                         9:30 am - Coffee Hour Conversation, Crocker Hall  
                         10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)  
                         11:45 am - Sunday School
- Mon., Apr 27      7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live)
- Tue., Apr 28      9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
- Wed., Apr 29      10:00 am - **Holy Eucharist & Healing** (YouTube Live)  
                         11 - Noon - Drive Through Food Collection  
                         12:00 pm - Noonday Prayer Meeting, Guild Room  
                         7:00 pm - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study (Zoom)
- Thu., Apr 30      9:30 am - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room  
                         7:30 pm - Choir Practice, Sanctuary
- Fri., May 1      10:00 am - St. Paul's Walking Group, Huntington State Park, Redding
- Sat., May 2      7:30 am - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford  
                         8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall  
                         10:00 am - PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall
- Sun., May 3      8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)  
                         9:30 am - Coffee Hour Conversation, Crocker Hall  
                         10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Eucharist** (YouTube Live)  
                         11:45 am - Sunday School



### Next Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Preacher: Fr. Nate

Readings for May 3rd

[Acts 7:55-60](#) - [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#) - [1 Peter 2:2-10](#) - [John 16](#)

