St Paul
Pine Grove Mills

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Baptism of our Lord

January 12, 2025

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.
You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

Introduction to the Day

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Prelude: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* *(Albine Whitworth)*

Gathering

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **A: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

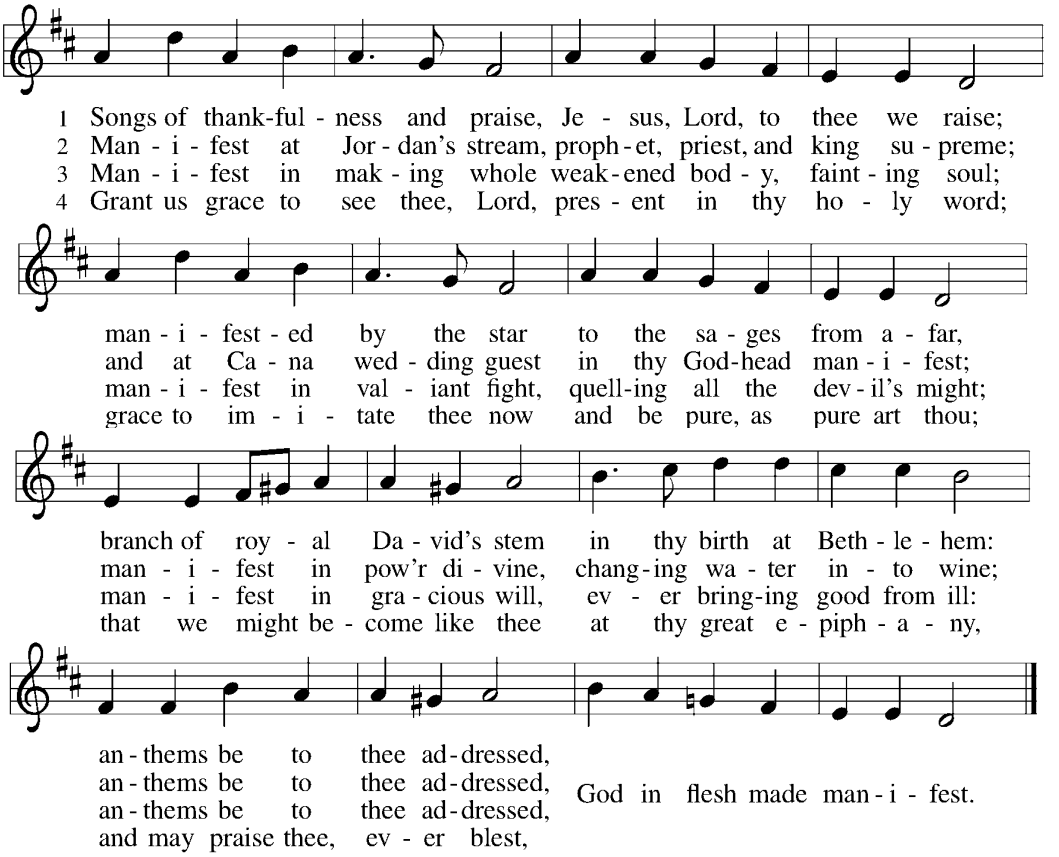
P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

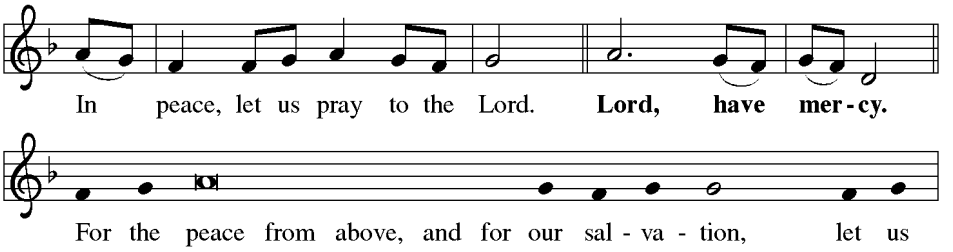
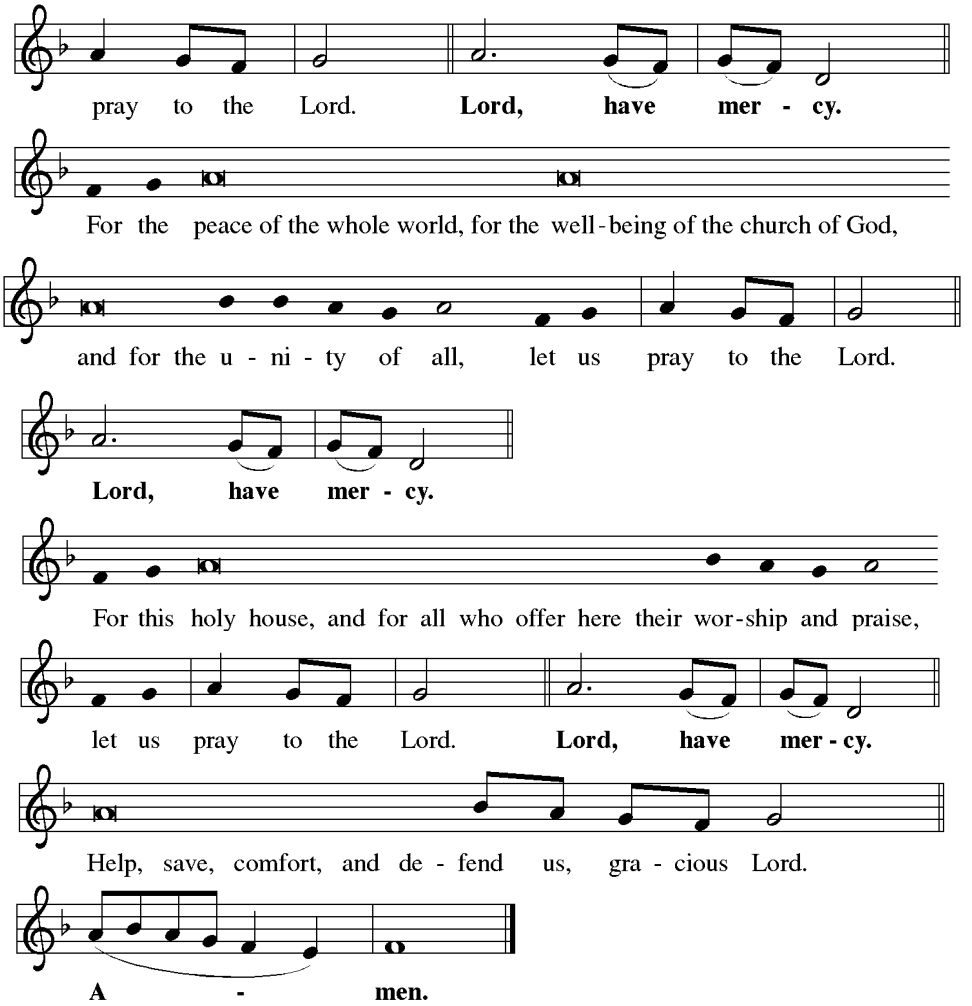
*Gathering Hymn *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* *(ELW 310)*



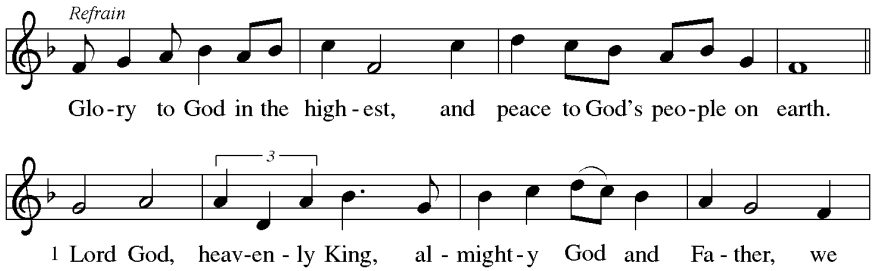
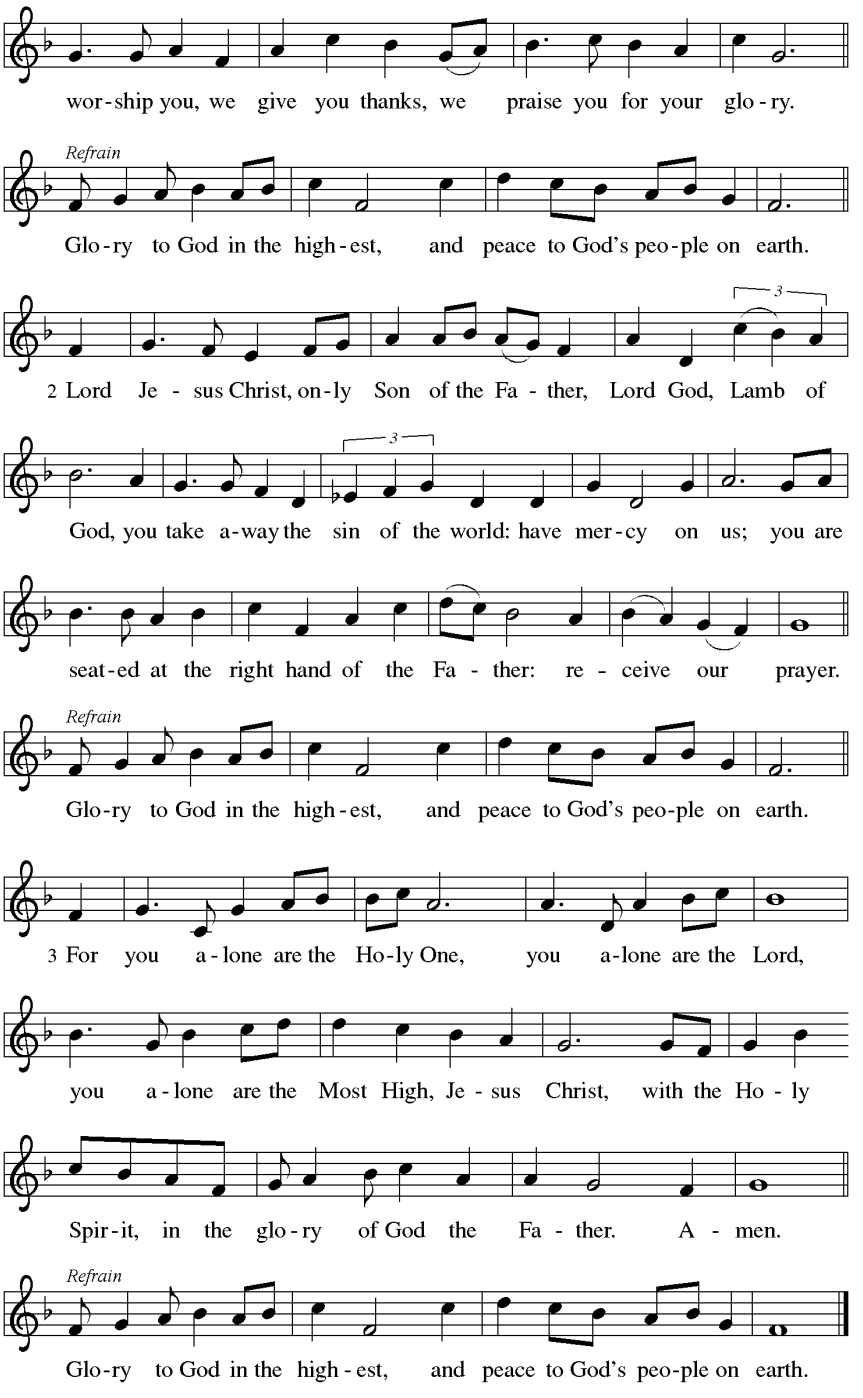
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also, with you.**

*KYRIE



*HYMN OF PRAISE



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are
seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also, with you.**
P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

Anthem: "Born Reborn"

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

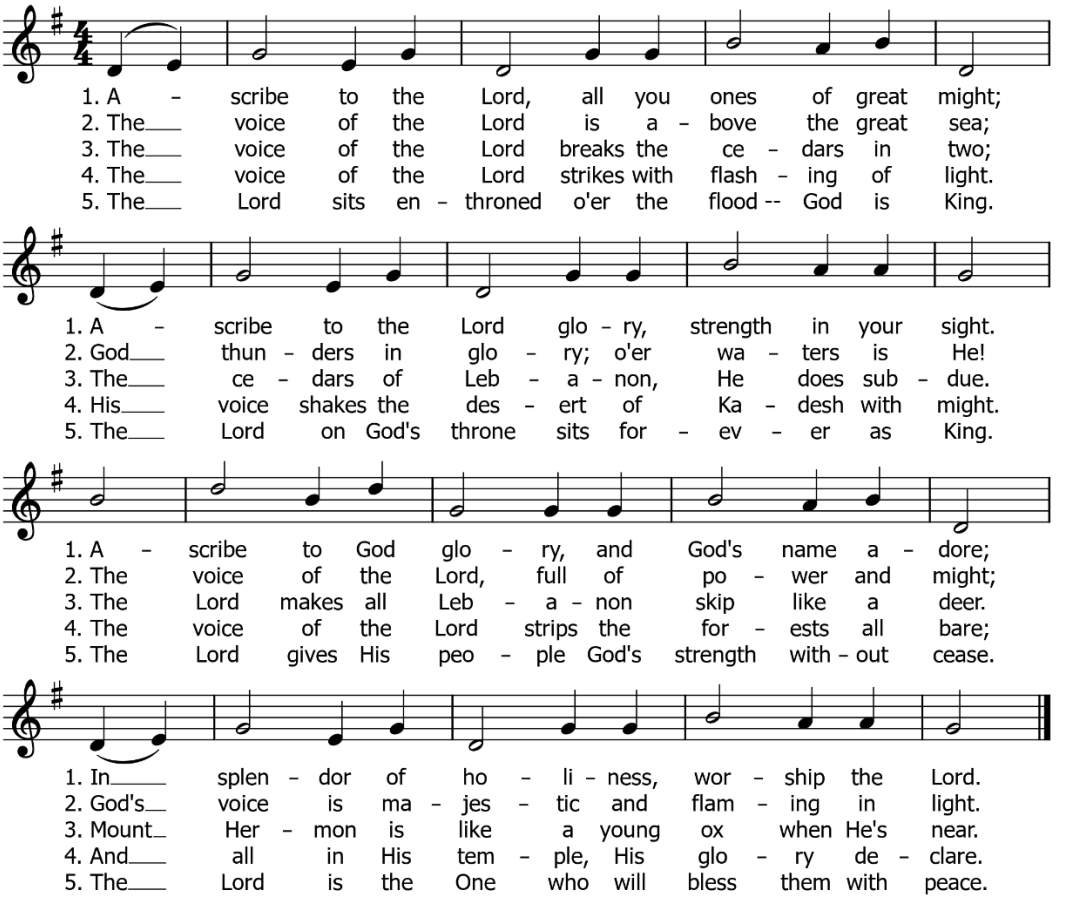
In the Old Testament "redeeming" was the action of a family member who bought back land a person was forced to sell, or (more dramatically) bought and freed someone who had been sold into slavery. Here it is an image for God's rescue of the Israelites who had been defeated and exiled to Babylon.

[1] But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
[2] When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
[3] For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
[4] Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
[5] Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
[6] I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God**.

Psalm: 29

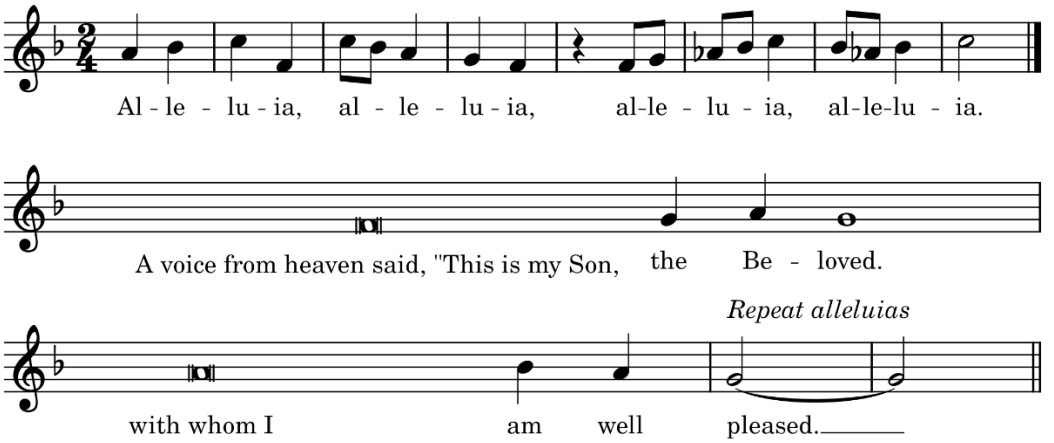
This psalm compares God's power to that of a thunderstorm. Like Baptism, the storm brings together water and wind (in Hebrew, the same word as "spirit) into an awesome, life-changing whole.

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

While the giving of the Spirit is inseparable from Baptism, here it is withheld to convince the apostles that the Gospel is not limited to Jews, but extends to Samaritans and Gentiles.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,
they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they
might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they
had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their
hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

"John's preaching, which we heard on the Third Sunday of Advent, demands both repentance and a new life which is expressed in just and fair treatment of others. We will hear the voice from heaven saying something similar at the end of this season, on Transfiguration Sunday."

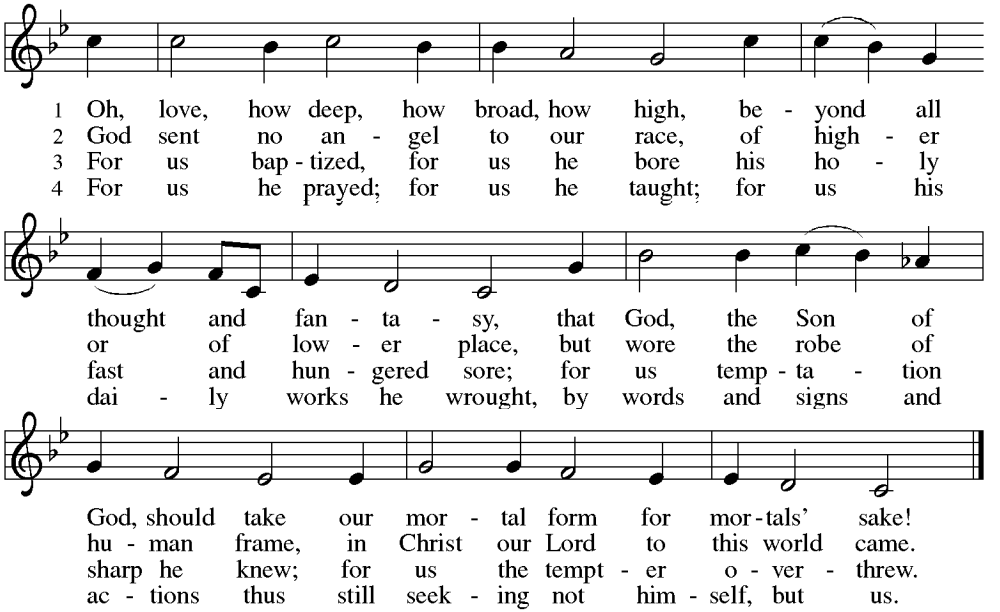
P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the third chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts
concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I
baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to
untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His
winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his
granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

[21] Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, [22] and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *"Oh, Love, How Deep"* (ELW 322)



5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

*Invitation to Baptism

*Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans, especially Slab Cabin Run and Beaver Branch. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery (*especially*). Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. We especially remember Mel Mehalick and Bob Rohrbaugh, our pastor emeritus. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
A: Amen.

*Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

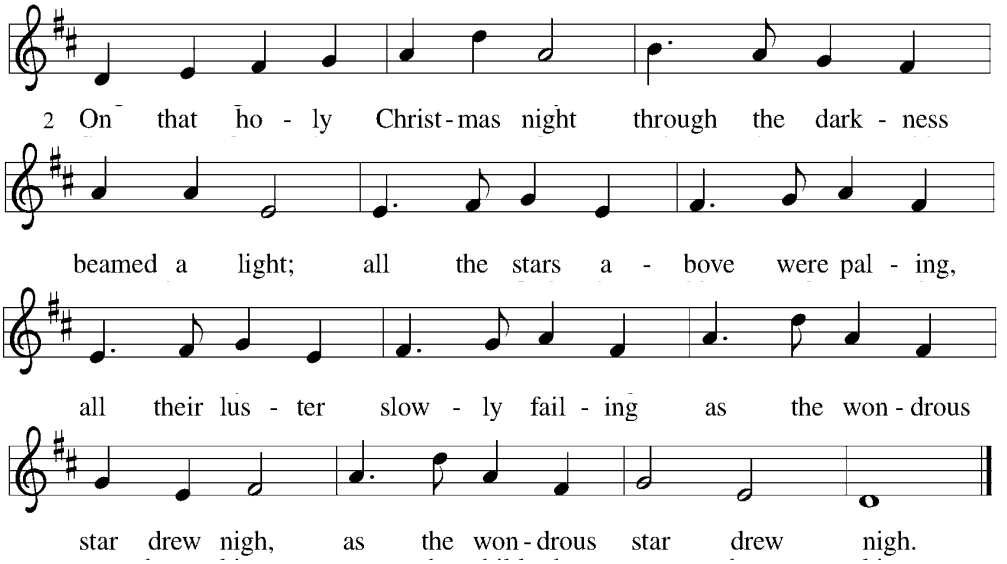
Meal

Offering

*Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give**, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.*

Musical Offering: "*He Hideth My Soul*" *(Mary McDonald)*

OFFERTORY: "*Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (vs.2)*" *(ELW 301)*



Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.
Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent.
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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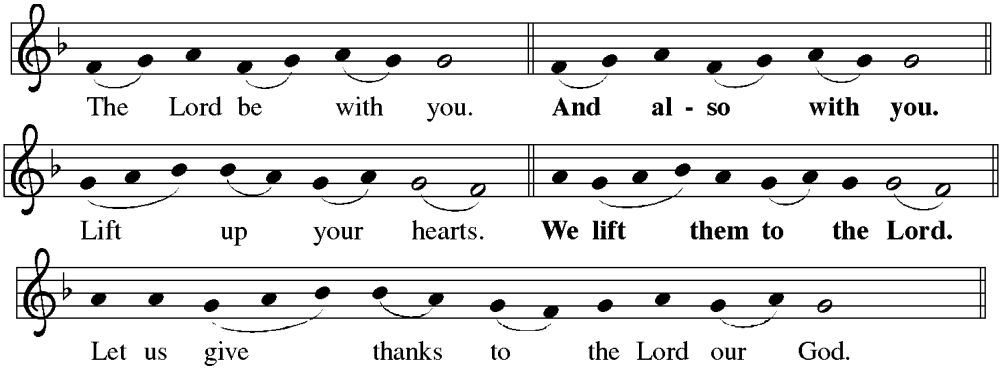
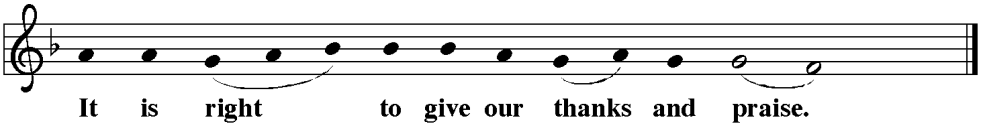
*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

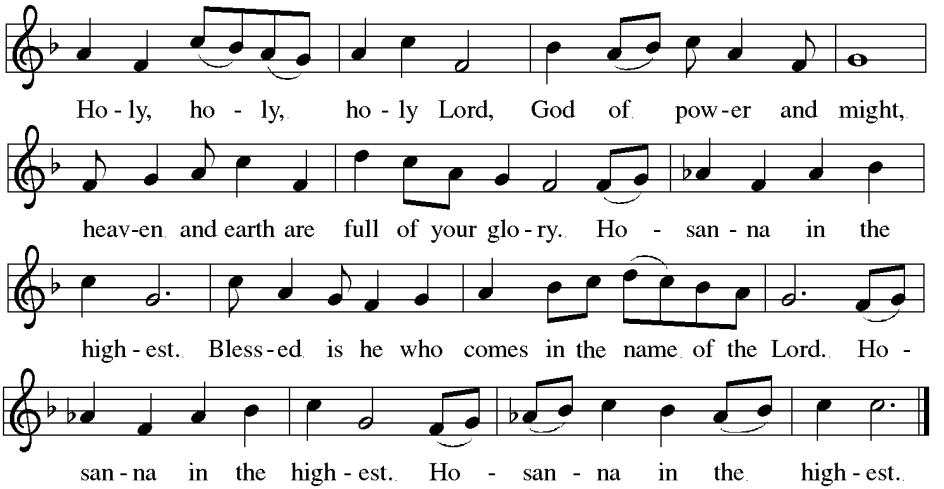
* DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

P: 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P P: Blessed are you, O holy God:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Until his great Epiphany, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
A: Amen

*Lord's Prayer

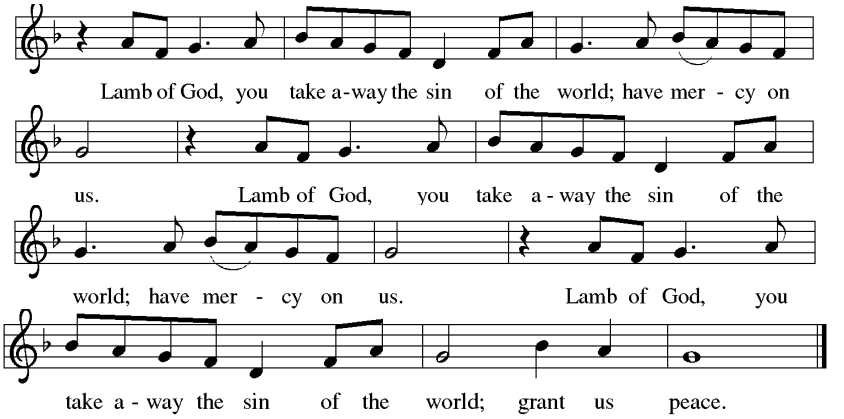
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*Lamb of God



A note on Communion Wafers

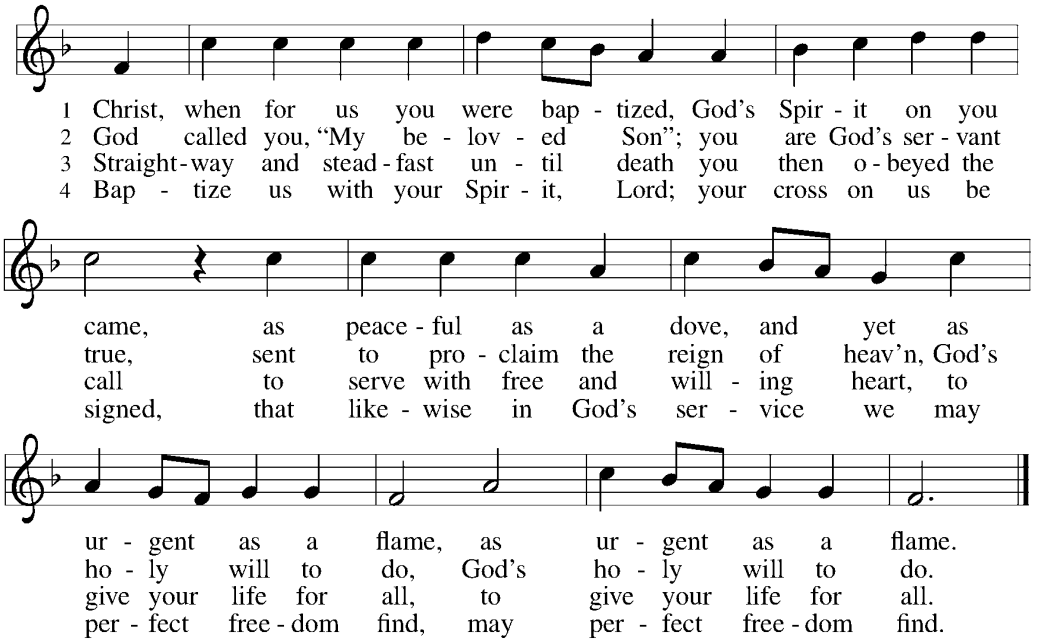
To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain 15ppm gluten or less (The US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results.

If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

Communion

L: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

Communion Hymn: "*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*" (ELW 304)



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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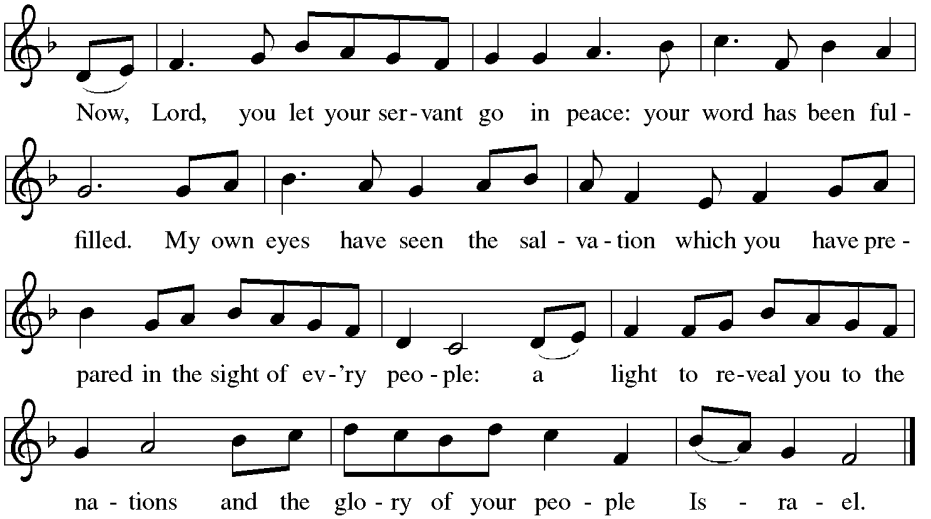
*Post-Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace.
A: Amen.

*Post-Communion Canticle – *Nunc Dimittis* (*Now, Lord)*



*Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **A: Amen.**

Sending

*Sending of Communion

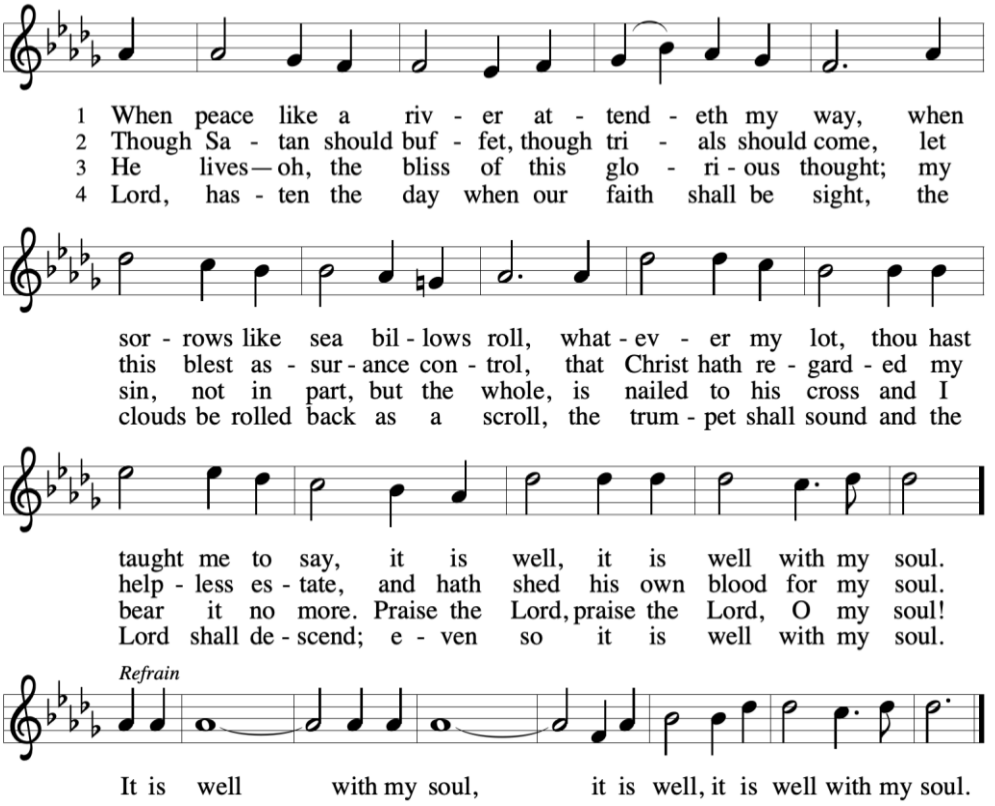
Announcements

You may be seated.

*Charge to the People

*Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✢ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: *"When Peace like a River"* *(ELW 785)*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.
A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"Hymn to Joy"* *(Albert L. Travis)*

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, January 12
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Monday, January 13
Judges 4:1-16
Ephesians 6:10-17
Psalm 106:1-12

Tuesday, January 14
Judges 5:12-21
1 John 5:13-21
Psalm 106:1-12

Wednesday, January15
Numbers 27:1-11
Luke 11:33-36
Psalm 106:1-12

Thursday, January 16
Jeremiah 3:1-5
Acts 8:18-24
Psalm 36:5-10

Friday, January 17
Jeremiah 3:19-25
1 Corinthians 7:1-7
Psalm 36:5-10

Saturday, January 18
Jeremiah 4:1-4
Luke 11:14-23
Psalm 36:5-10

ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
Organist..... James Rearick
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Michelle McMullen

About St. Paul

Purpose

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

Mission

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

Core Values

Faith ❧ Compassion ❧ Generosity ❧ Community

Our Bible Verses

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

Land Acknowledgement

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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