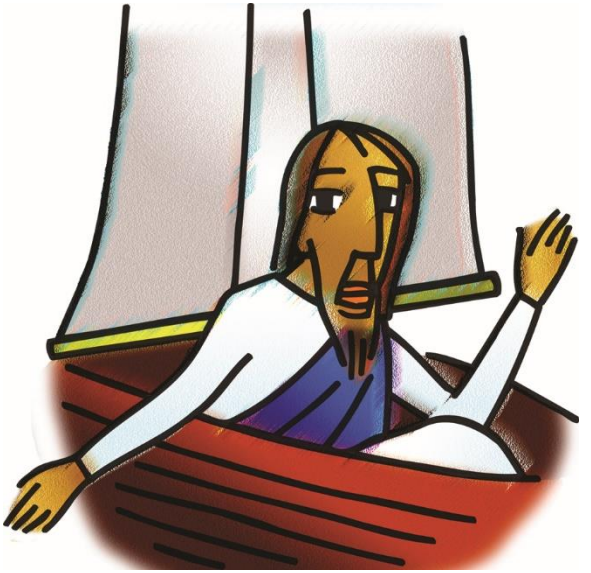
ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 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

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are's" and the "woe to's" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Prelude

Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

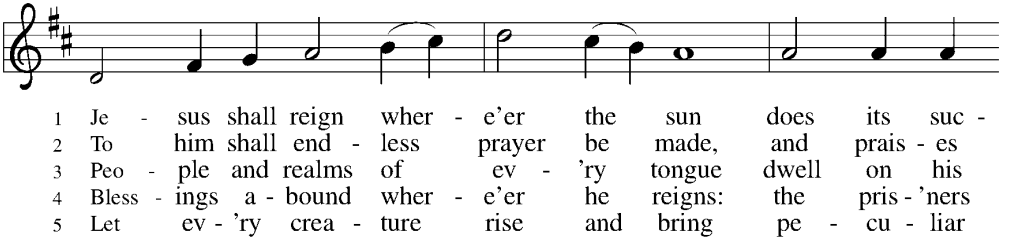
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

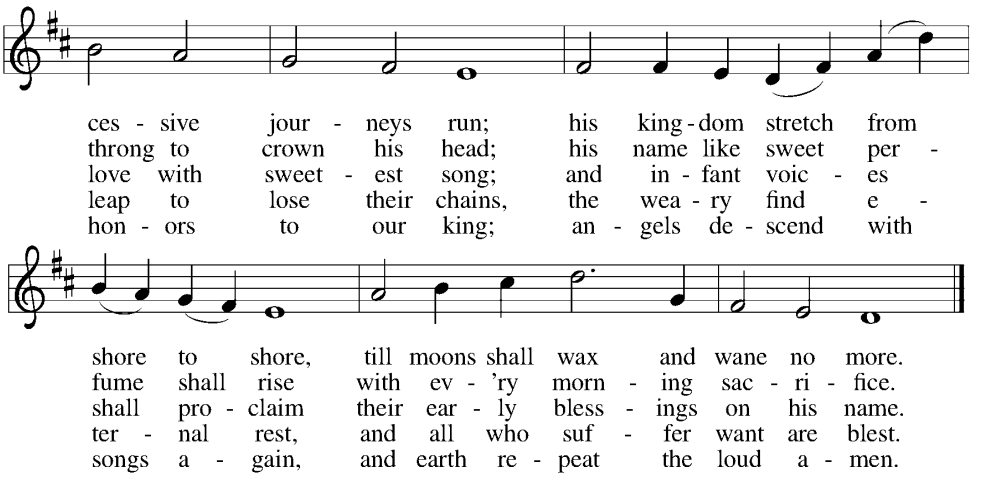
P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. A: Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn *"Jesus Shall Reign* *(ELW 434)*



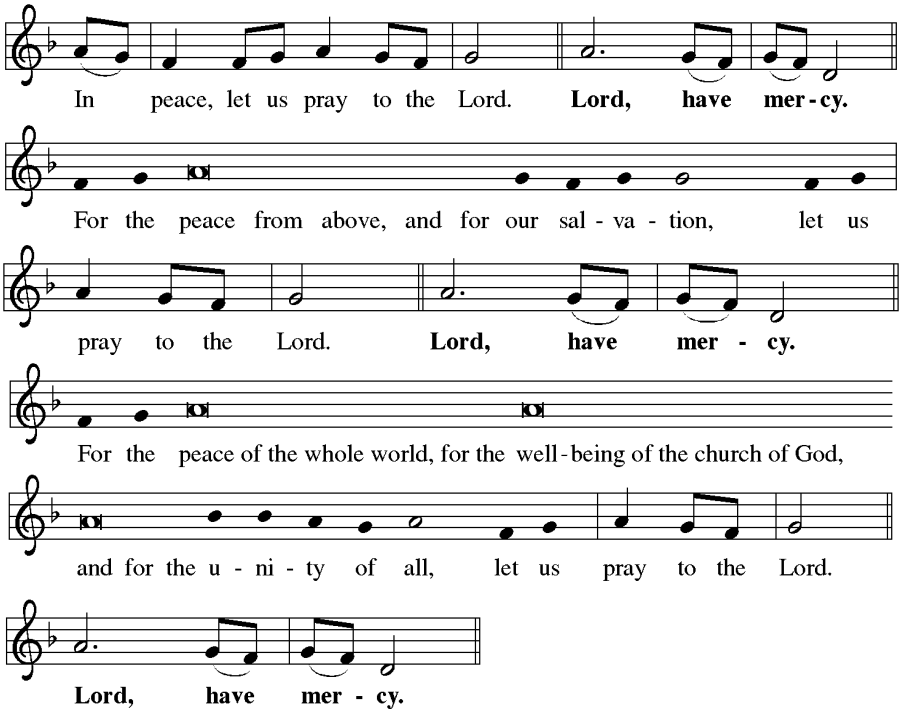


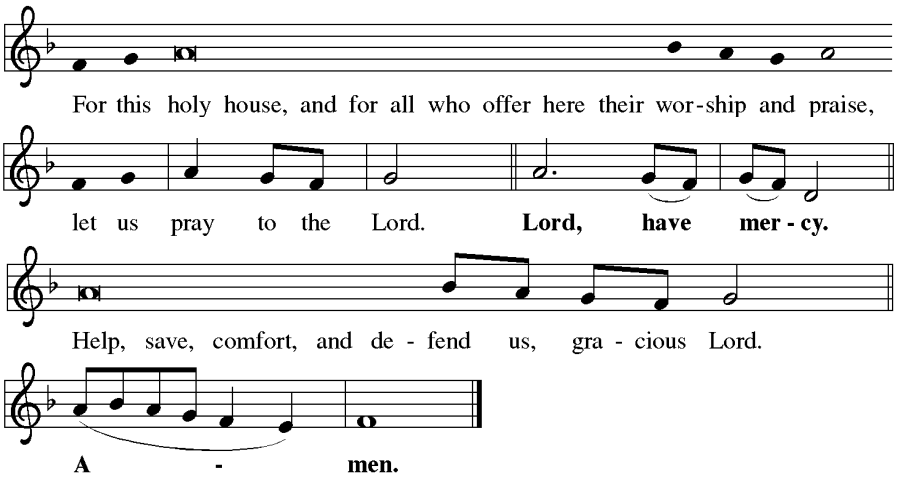
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

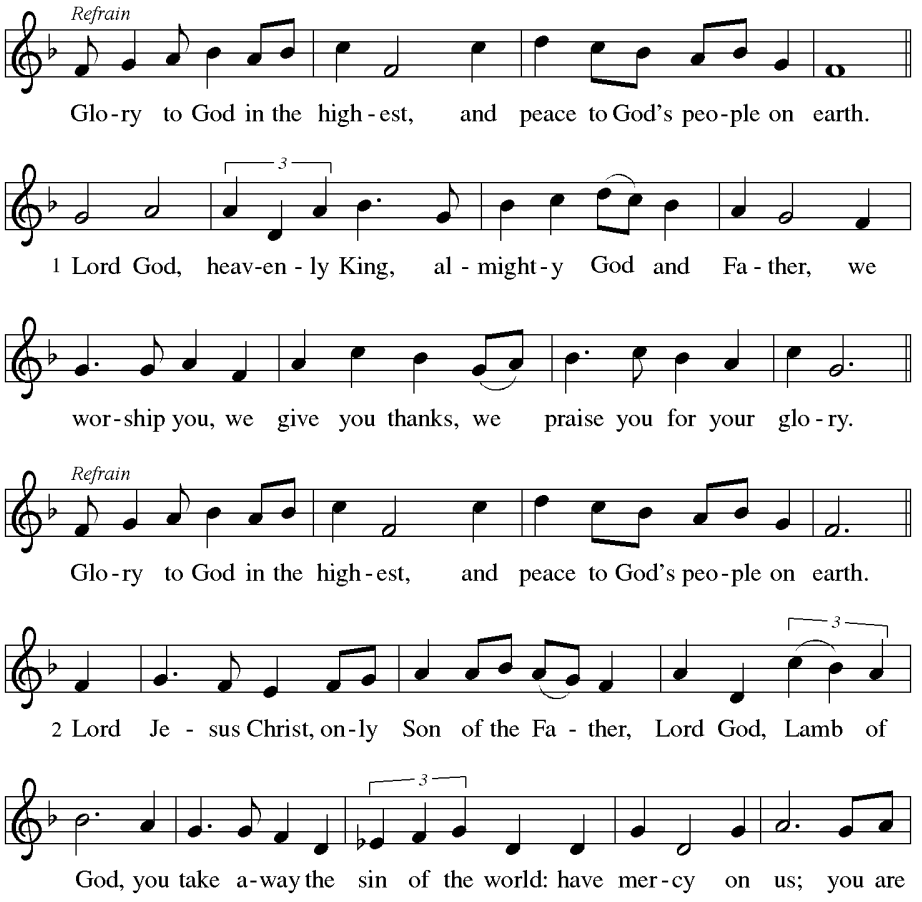
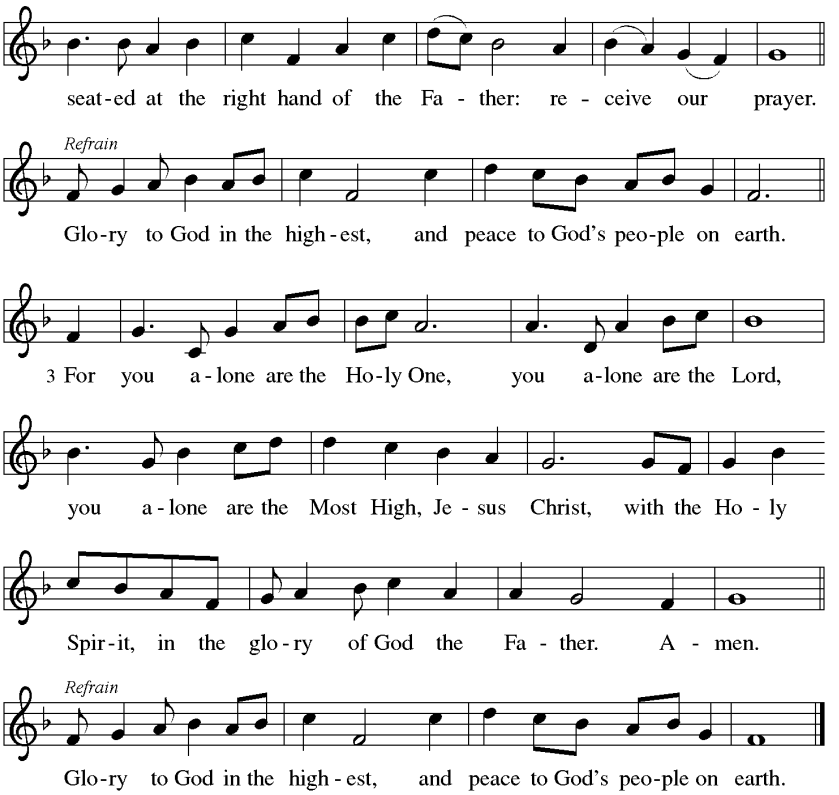
*GREETING

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

*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also, with you.**
P: Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

The First Reading often has a clear relationship to the day's Gospel reading. In both of these readings today, human wisdom and expectations are contrasted with God's.

5 Thus says the Lord:
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

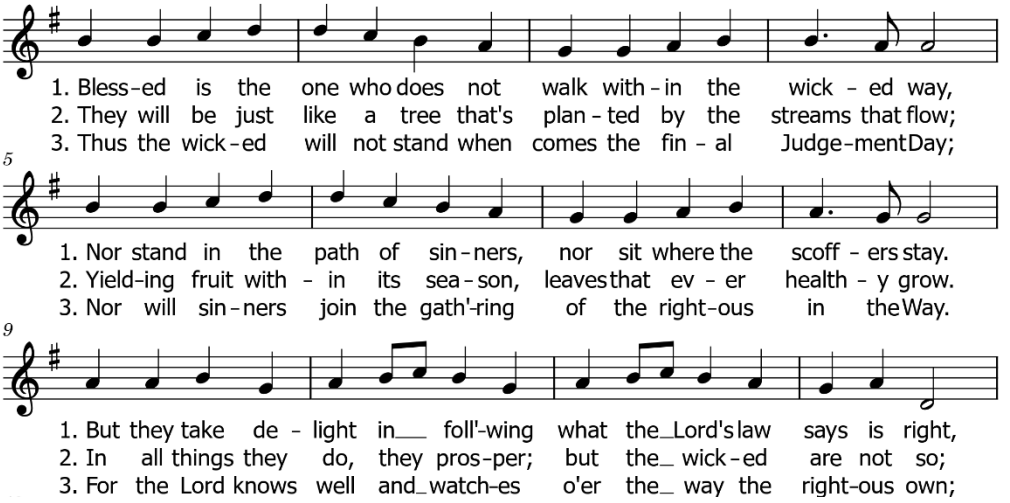
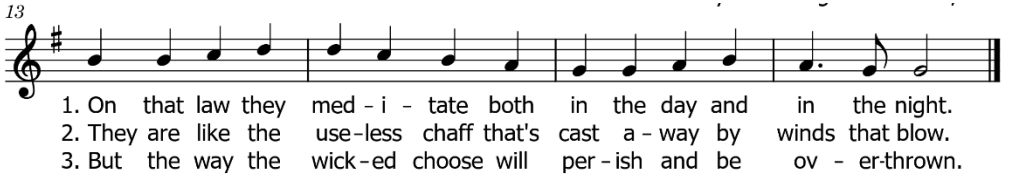
7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
10 I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God**.

Psalm: 1

(sung to the tune Ode to Joy ELW 836)

This psalm of delight in God's law shares the First Reading's affirmation that God's Word (unlike even clever wickedness) will sustain the faithful. The psalm even uses the same metaphor of a tree by a river.

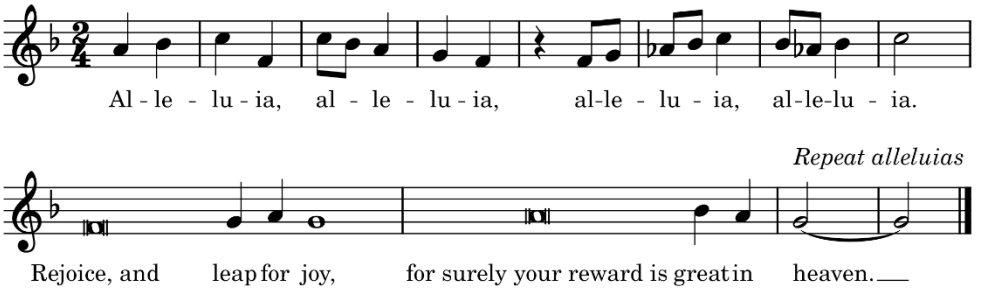


Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

During this season we are reading through the last part of 1 Corinthians. One of the reasons Paul is writing to the Christians at Corinth is that some had decided that fully mature Christians (like them) are not only spiritually gifted in superior ways, but also immortal. According to them, only inferior Christians would die. Paul provides a striking counter-example.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no
resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been
raised, 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is
in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he
raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the
dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your
faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have
perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

*Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26

While Matthew places this sermon on a hill, Luke tells of it happening on a plain. In both cases, however, it begins with this description of the Christian's life, known as the Beatitudes (from the word for "blessed" or "fortunate."). Unlike Matthew, Luke includes parallel "woes."

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

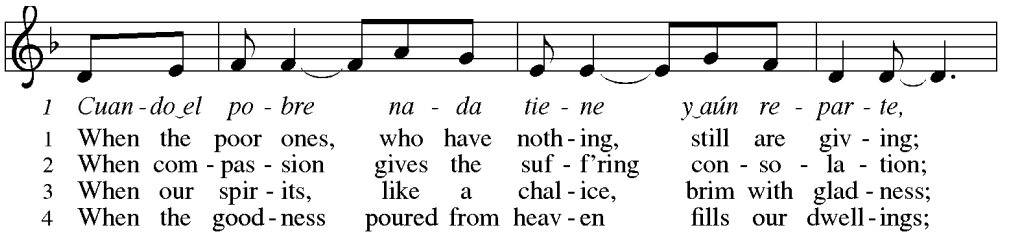
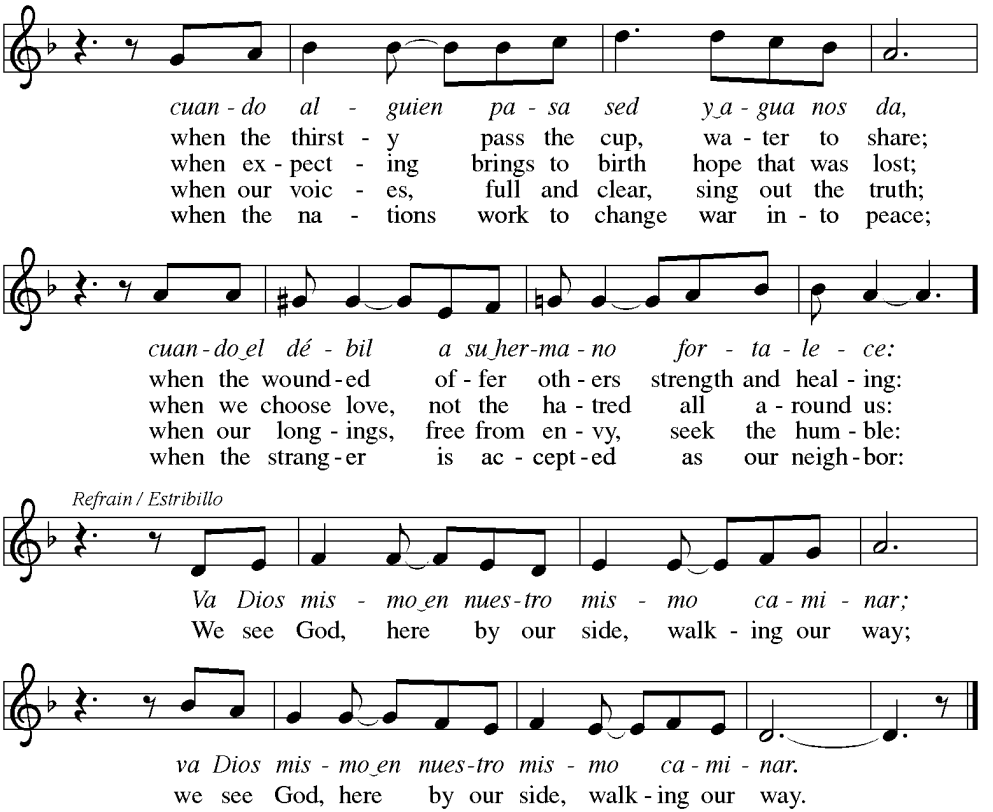
17 [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his
disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and
Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were
troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch
him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and
defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely
your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.
24 "But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
25 "Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.
"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
26 "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false
prophets.

" P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ**.

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: *"When the Poor Ones"* (ELW 725)



2 *Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo,*
cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar,
cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee:
Estribillo

3 *Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,*
cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,
cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos:
Estribillo

4 *Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,*
cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño:
Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934
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*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: Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed are those who delight in the meditation of your Word and world. Guide Susquehanna University's search for a chaplain. Grant wisdom to the committee and prepare the heart of the one called to serve that they may inspire faith, foster belonging, and lead with love. God of Grace. **A: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace, especially Ken Showers. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. 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.**

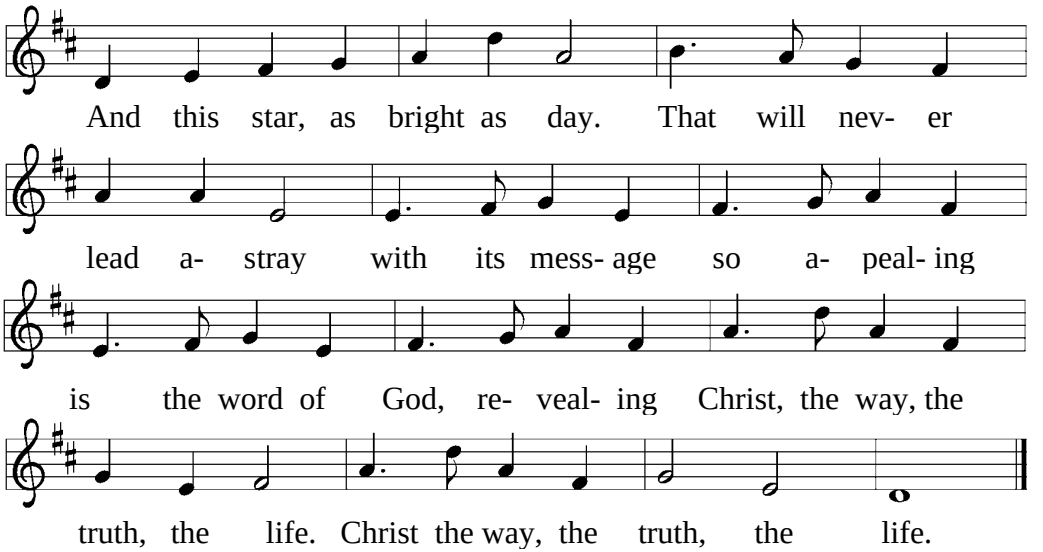
Meal

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

*Offertory: *"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" vs. 5* *(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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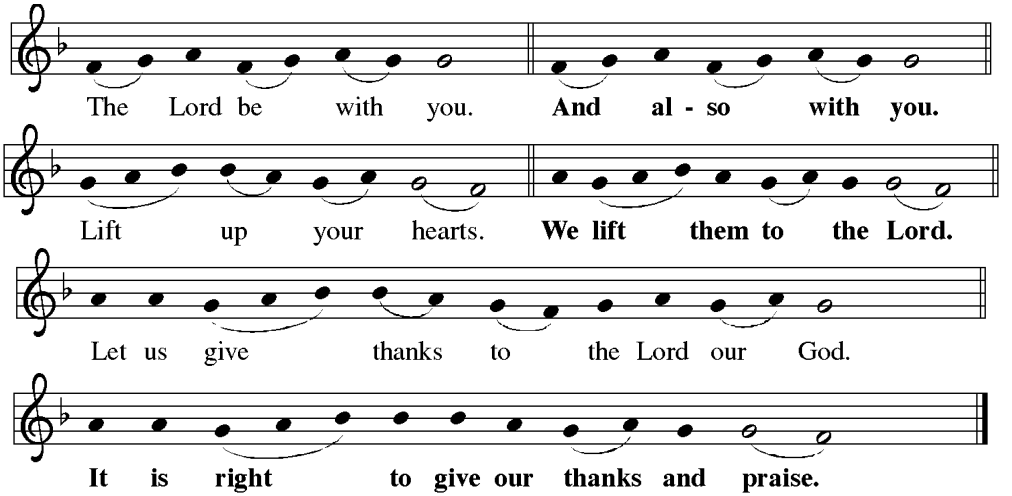
*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

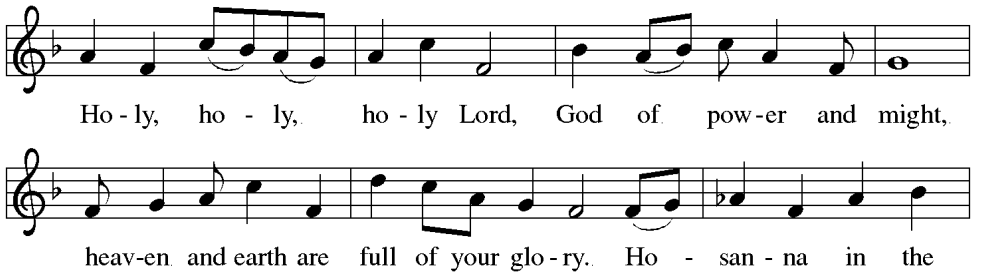
* DIALOGUE

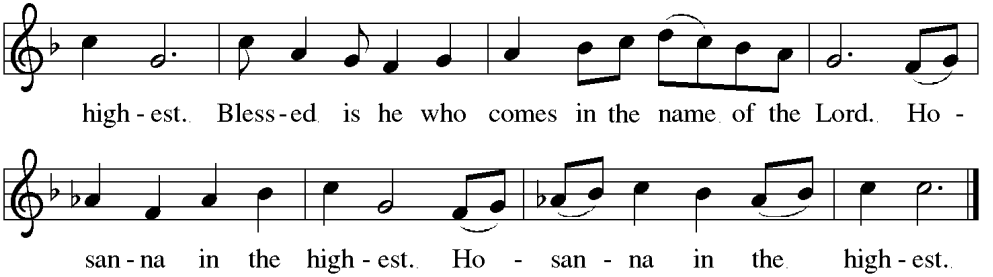


*PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

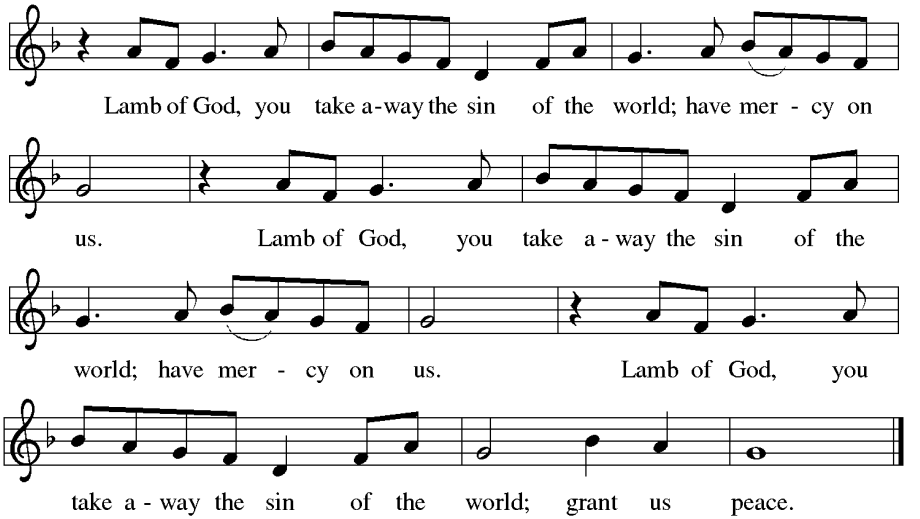
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

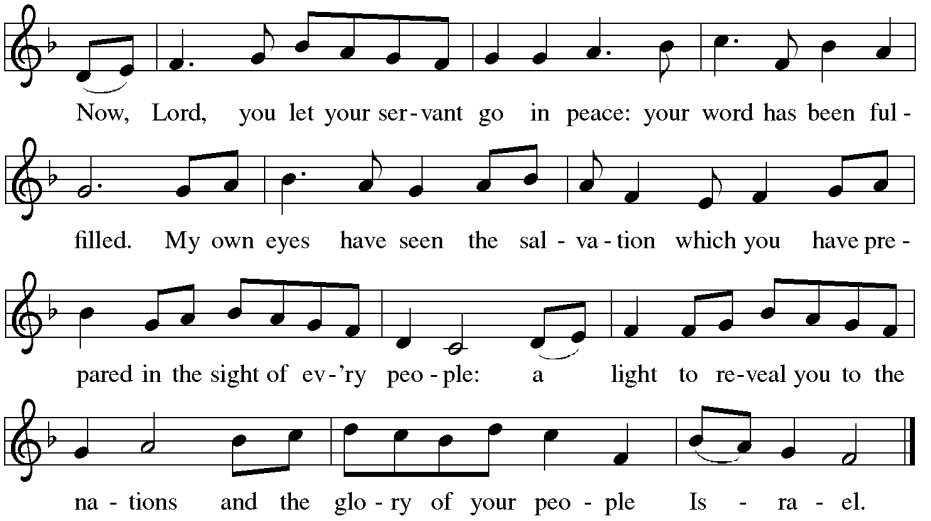
P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

Communion Hymn: *"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"* *(ELW 696)*

*Post-Communion Blessing

P: 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. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **A: Amen.**

Sending

*Sending of Communion

Announcements

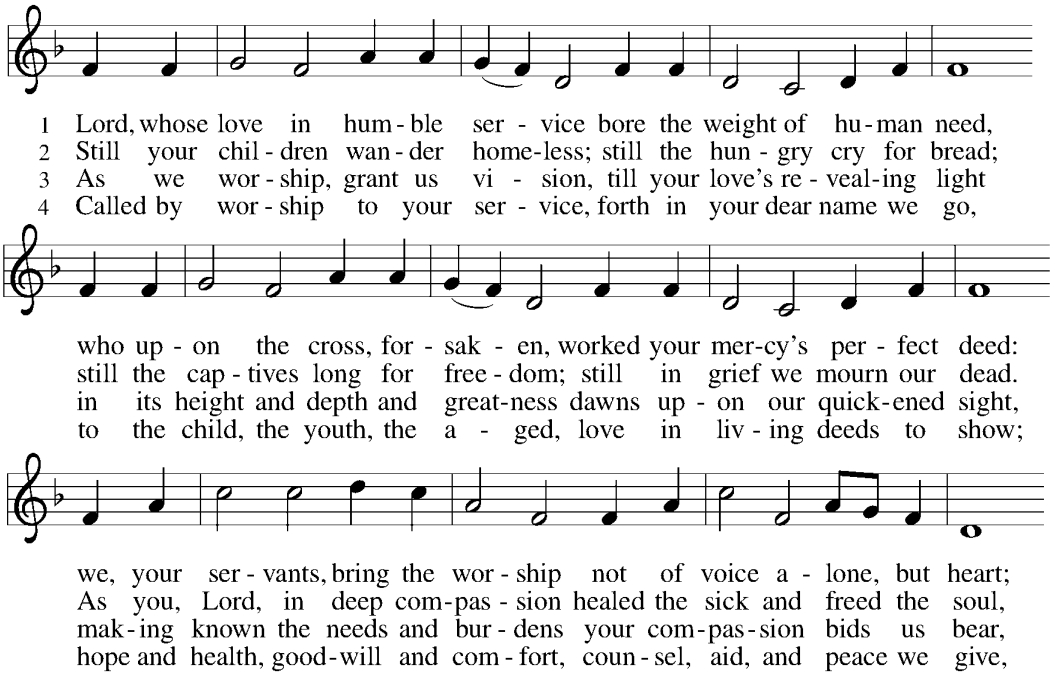
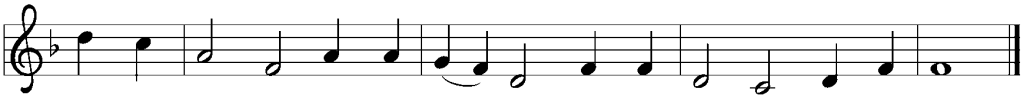
You may be seated.

*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: *" Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"* *(ELW 712)*



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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*Dismissal

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

Postlude

Living Lutheran

Sign up for the print magazine

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be $19.95 for an individual subscription and $17 per year for a congregation group subscription.

You can sign up today by going to livinglutheran.org/subscribe/ to let us know you would like to subscribe for the magazine. You will be invoiced for your subscription before March 2025. If your subscription had not lapsed at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when your subscription expires. If you have questions, please contact us at livinglutheran@elca.org or call us at 800-638-3522.

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, February 16
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1 (3) 1
Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Monday, February 17
2 Kings 24:18—25:21
1 Corinthians 15:20-34
Psalm 120

Tuesday, February 18
Ezra 1:1-11
2 Corinthians 1:12-19
Psalm 120

Wednesday, February 19
Jeremiah 22:11-17
Luke 11:37-52
Psalm 120

Thursday, February 20
Genesis 43:16-34
Romans 8:1-11
Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

Friday, February 21
Genesis 44:1-17
1 John 2:12-17
Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

Saturday, February 22
Genesis 44:18-34
Luke 12:57-59
Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Joy Kling
Pianist..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Linda Govere

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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