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

Transfiguration of Our Lord
March 2, 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

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

Prelude – *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the 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.**

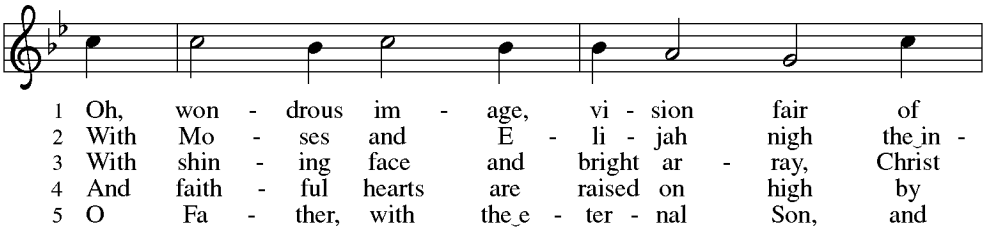
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

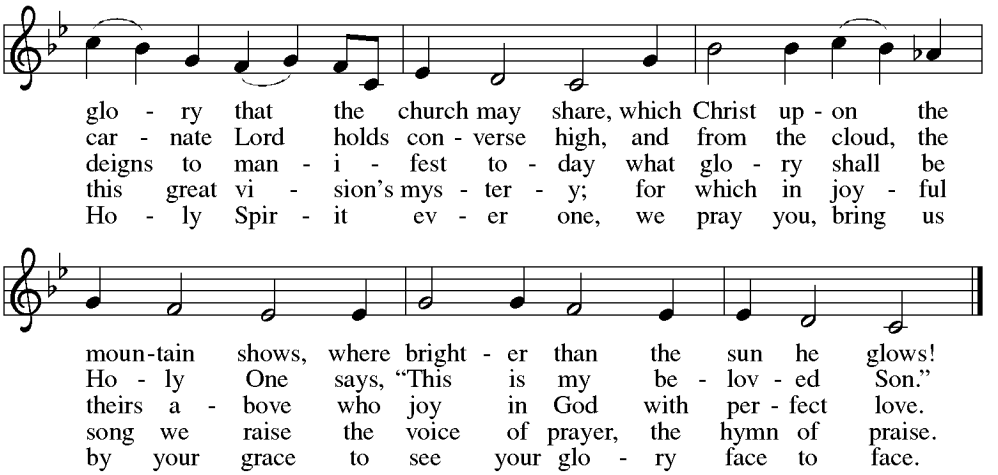
P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

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 "*Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*" *(ELW 316)*



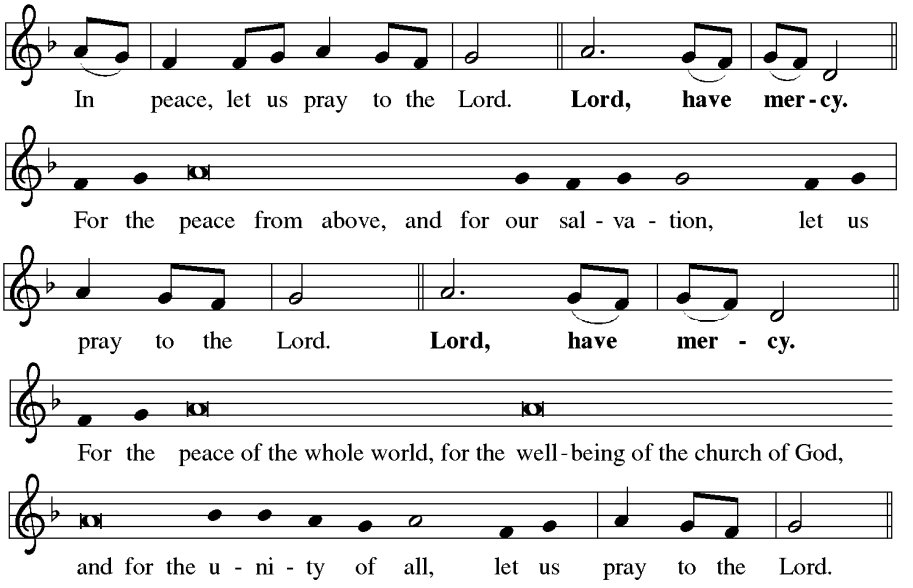


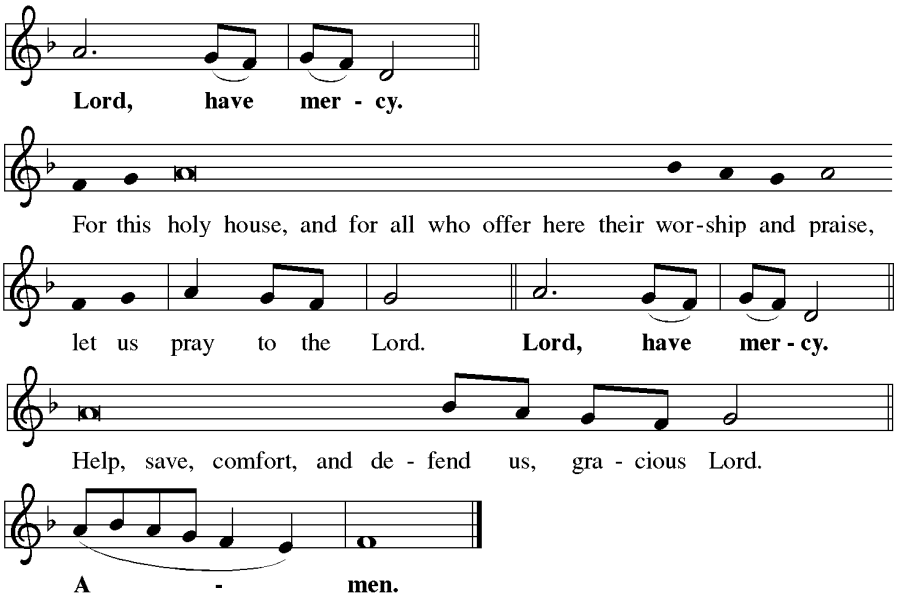
Text: Sarum, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

*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. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

Word

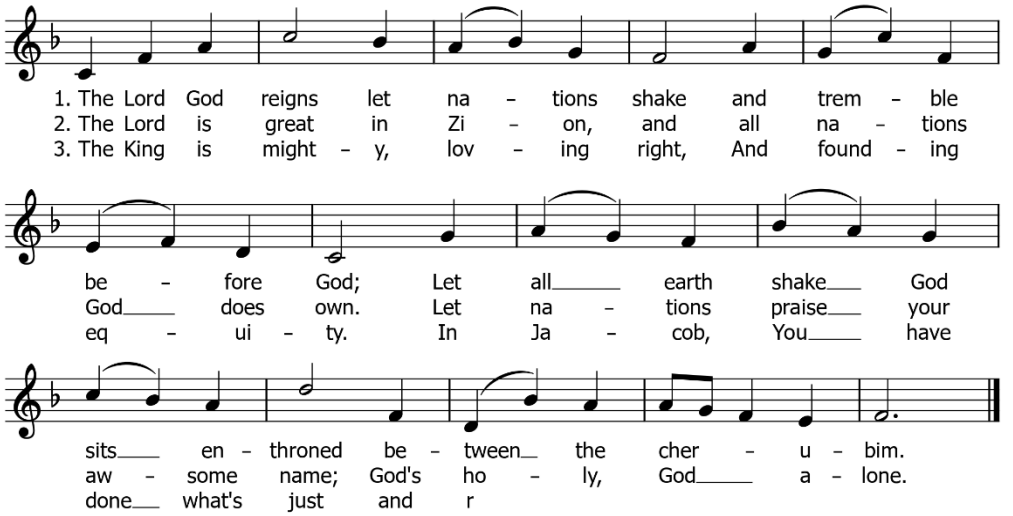
First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

It was remarkable that Moses was able to speak to God face to face and survive. But even the reflection of God's glory which affected his face was too much for the people to look at. This dazzling appearance finds a parallel in the Transfiguration.

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two
tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone
because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the
skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to
them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke
with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all
that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking
with them, he put a veil on his face, 34 but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak
with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the
Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that
the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went
in to speak with him. L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God**.

Psalm: 99 *(sung to the tune Chesterfield ELW 239)*

One of today's themes is the utter awesomeness of God – unbearable and even indescribable. This psalm echoes that, but also affirms that the true glory of God is justice and mercy.



Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

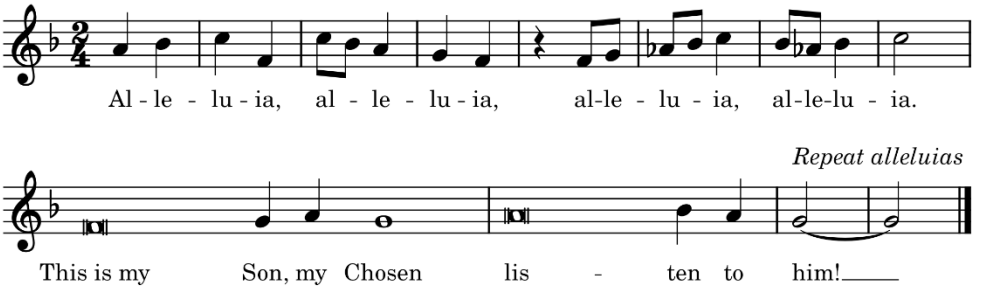
In this part of his correspondence with the church at Corinth, Paul is comparing the law, given through Moses, with the gospel of the crucified and resurrected Christ. He sees the law as temporary and always condemning our insufficient righteousness, while the Gospel is permanent and makes us righteous. This is the hope which he proclaims, sometimes in language too frank, open, and honest for the Corinthians' taste.

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with complete frankness, 13 not like Moses, who
put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that
was being set aside. 14 But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they
hear the reading of the old covenant, the same veil is still there; it is not unveiled since in
Christ it is set aside. 15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their
minds, 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the
same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

4:1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose
heart. 2 We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning
or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to
the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

This passage immediately follows Peter's affirmation that Jesus is the Messiah, and Jesus' first prediction of his approaching suffering, death, and resurrection. One of the gifts Jesus will give his disciples after his Resurrection is the understanding that the law and prophets (here personified by Moses the law-giver and Elijah the greatest prophet) describe him and his passion. The voice from the cloud spoke the same message to Jesus at his baptism.

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

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James
and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his
face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Suddenly they saw
two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking
about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his
companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the
two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it
is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for
Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and
overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the
cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" 36 When the voice
had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any
of the things they had seen.

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met
him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is
my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until
he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to
cast it out, but they could not." 41 Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation,
how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42 While he
was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus
rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43a And all were
astounded at the greatness of God.]

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

Sermon

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Dazzling Presence on the Mountain"* (ACS 917)

Text: Paul E. Hoffman, b. 1956
Music: WAVERLY, Karen E. Black, b. 1960
Text and music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

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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: Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, borough councils, and township boards, especially Jeremie Thompson, Omari Patterson, Matt Heller, Patty Stephens, and Lisa Strickland. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts (*especially*). God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

L: God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries like the work of our LEAD Journey. God of grace,
A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people especially Father Daniel Moser, our founding pastor, and John Wesley and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church, who the greater church remembers today. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. 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

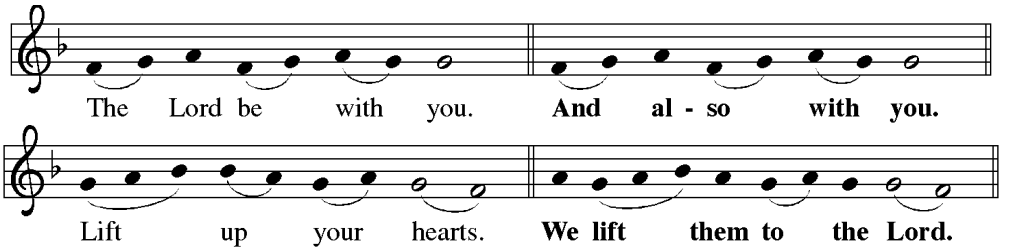
*Offertory: *"Christ, Be Our Light" vs. 5* *(ELW 715)*

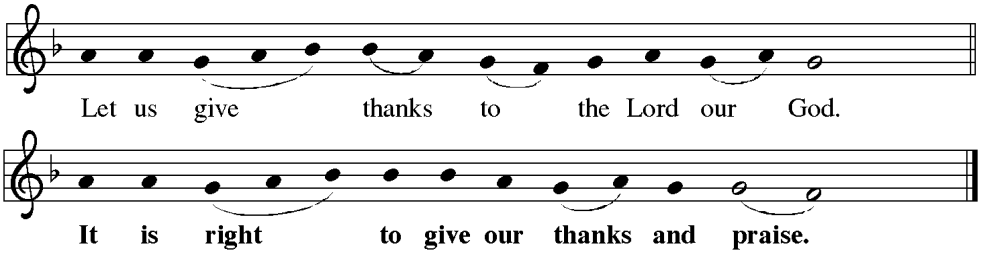
*Offering Prayer

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

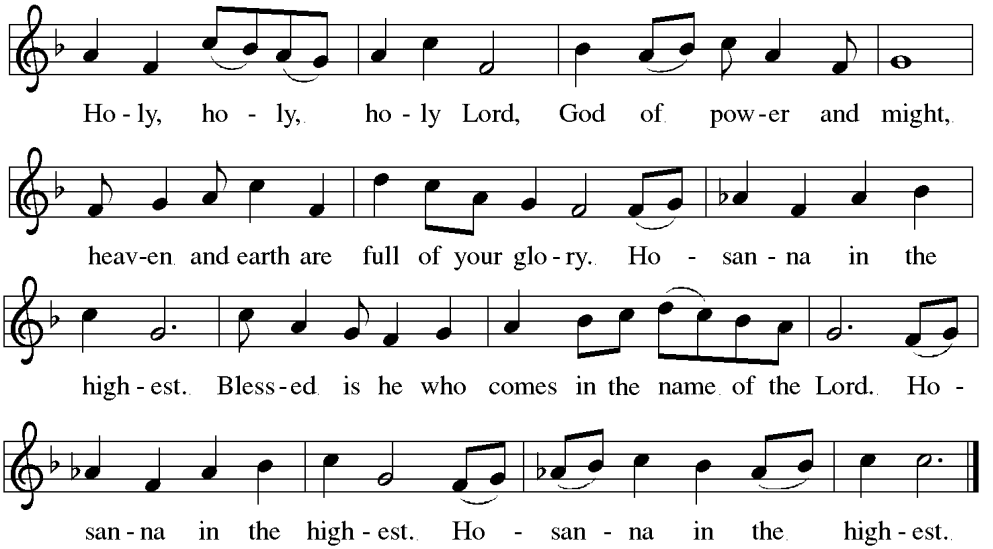




*PREFACE

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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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: Almighty Lord,
we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
From before the earth's foundation,
you loved us and promised us life forever.
Within the earth's deep sadness,
we laud your great and glorious might.

Despite our tears and sinning,
we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
We praise your Son, our Morning Star.
Christ is our diamond bright,
our treasure dear.
He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.
He keeps us yours and fails us never.
On the night before his great salvation,
he 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.

With joy we tell our story:
A: Alleluia! Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia!

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

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.
Refresh our souls with this heavenly food,
the body and blood of your Son.
Nourish us as branches of your tree,
and enlighten us with your undying flame.
A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son,
we exult in the Spirit.
Transport us in our yearning,
and be for us the end and the beginning,
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown,

our never-ending love.
And so we pray and praise:

A: Amen. Alleluia!

*Lord's Prayer

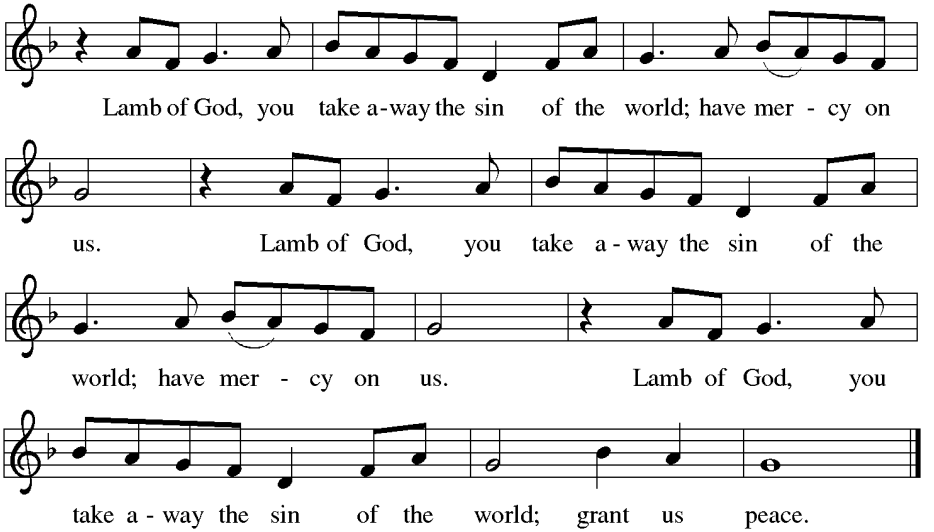
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

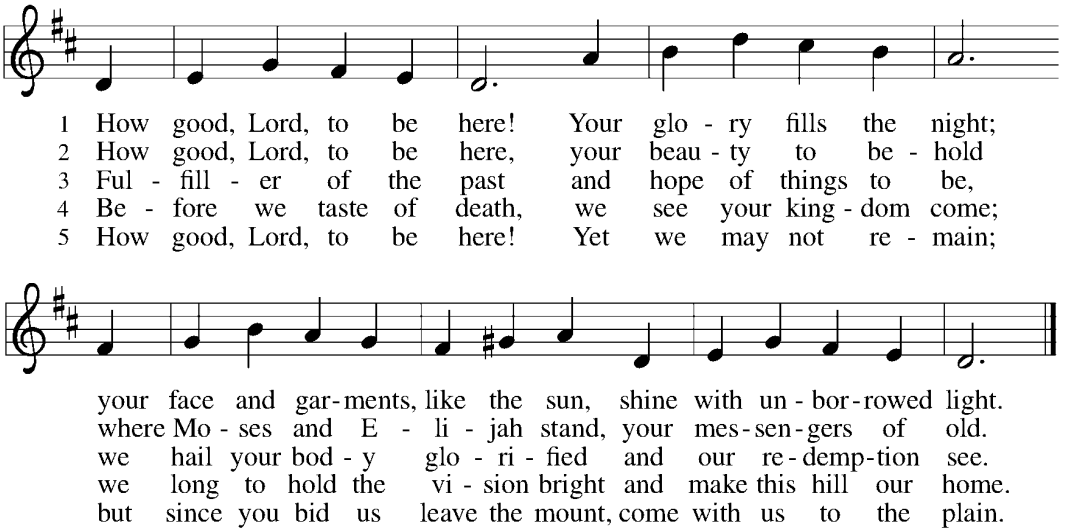
To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts 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: *"How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"* *(ELW 315)*

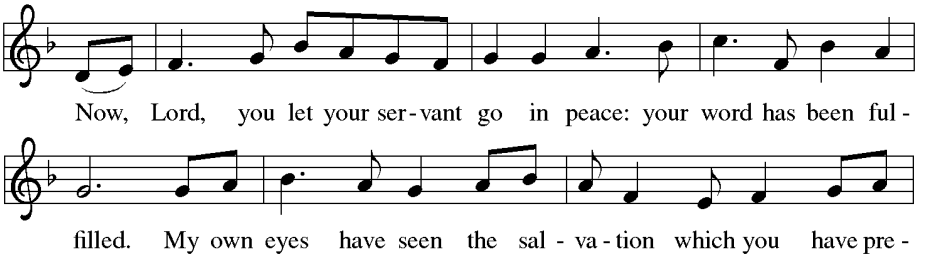


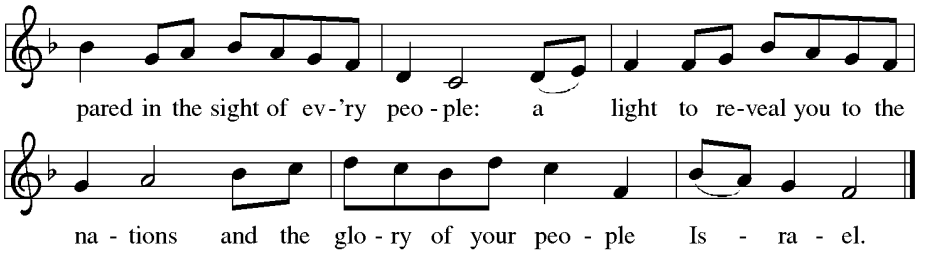
Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.
Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

*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.

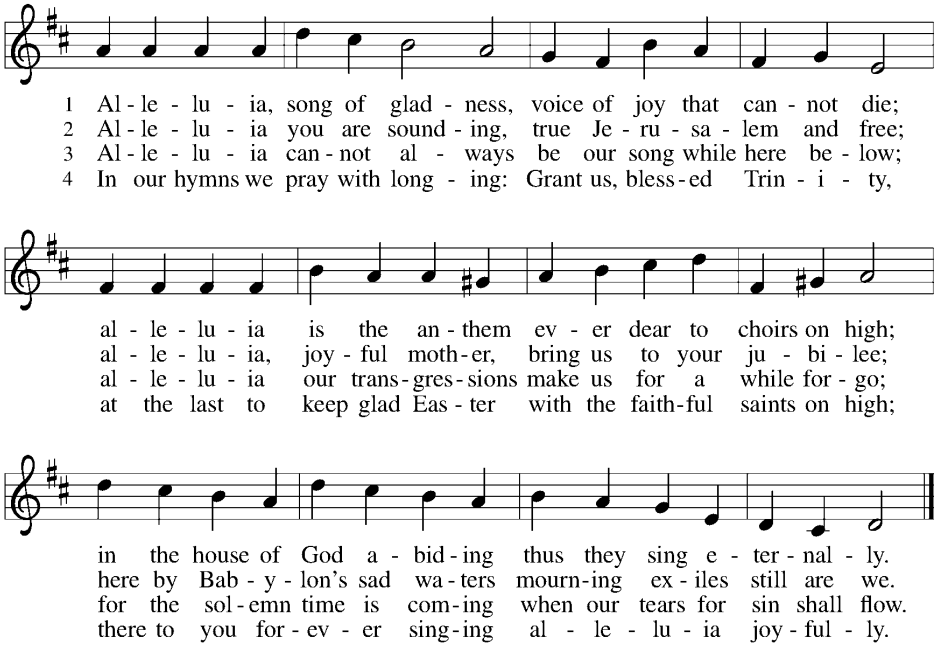
Burying Alleluia

*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: *"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"* *(ELW 318)*



Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

*Dismissal

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

Postlude

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, March 2
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99 (9)
2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2
Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]

Monday, March 3
Exodus 35:1-29
Acts 10:9-23a
Psalm 35:11-28

Tuesday, March 4
Ezekiel 1:1—2:1
Acts 10:23b-33
Psalm 35:11-28

Wednesday, March 5
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12 {alternate}
Psalm 51:1-17 (1)
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday, March 6
Exodus 5:10-23
Acts 7:30-34
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Friday, March 7
Exodus 6:1-13
Acts 7:35-42
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Saturday, March 8
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
John 12:27-36
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Karen Magnuson
Pianist..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Eleanor Bird

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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