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

Palm & Passion Sunday

April 13, 2025

Welcome to Saint Paul!

We are happy to have you here!

How to know when to stand, sit, or speak

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.
You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

We are an Open Communion Congregation

This means that any Christians who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism are invited to receive Holy Communion.

How to financially support us

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.

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.

Gathering

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship.

An Introduction to the day

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

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

Gathering

Acclamation

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
A: Hosanna in the highest!
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*Processional Gospel – Luke 19:28-40

Jesus' triumphal entry, not on a warhorse or even (like Solomon's) on a donkey, but on a colt is humble and unprecedented, foreshadowing the humility and self-emptying which will be a theme of the rest of this morning's readings. In this passage, the word "Lord" could mean either God, or the true owner of the animal. And "Hosanna" is Hebrew for "Save now;" it is as much an intercessory prayer as a cry of jubilation.

P: The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the nineteenth chapter.
A: Glory to you, O Lord.

28 After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.
29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of

Olives, he sent two of the disciples, [30] saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. [31] If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' " [32] So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. [33] As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" [34] They said, "The Lord needs it." [35] Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. [36] As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. [37] Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, [38] saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

[39] Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." [40] He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

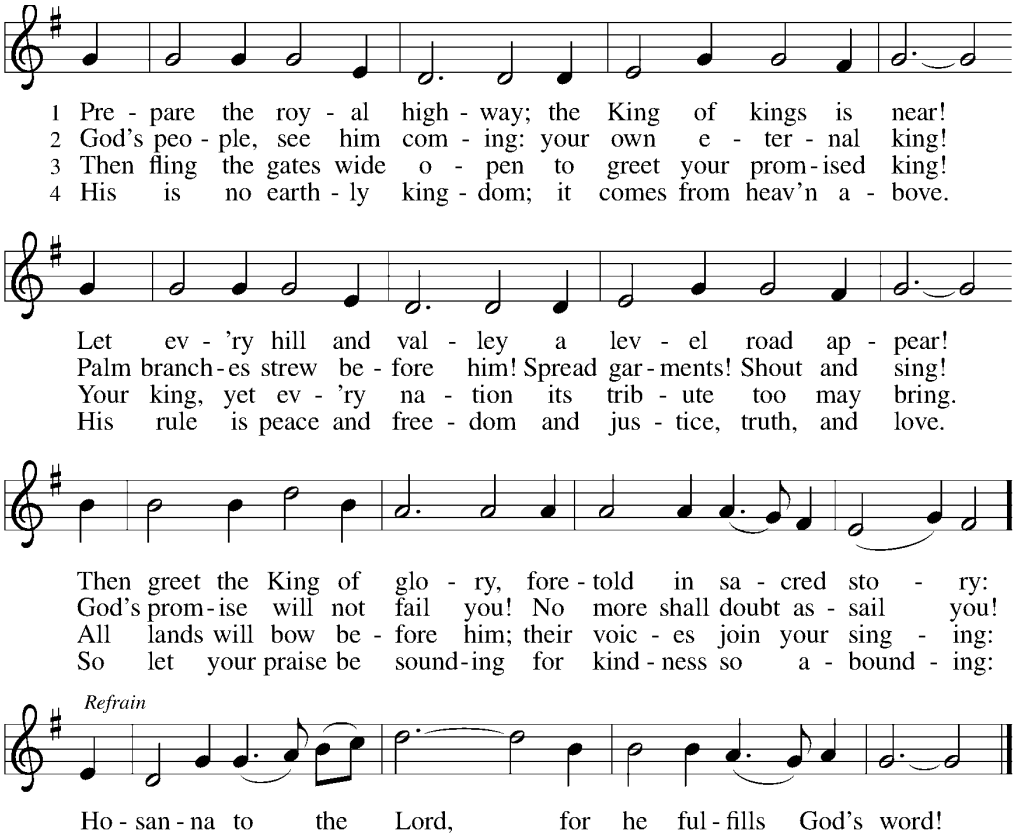
*BLESSING OF PALMS

P: The Lord be with you.
A: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
A: Amen.

P: Let us go forth in peace,
A: In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* *(ELW 264)*



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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L: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
A: Hosanna in the highest!

*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

ANTHEM: *"Antiphonal Hosanna"*

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

This passage is one of four "servant songs" in this part of the book of Isaiah, and it is not exactly clear in any of them if the singer is identified with the prophet, the king, or Israel as a whole. Since the context of this passage is the announcement of the return of the Israelites from exile in Babylon, if the "I" in this passage is the author, it may be that not everyone welcomed this news, and that he suffered at the hands of those who preferred exile to the dangers of home-coming and rebuilding.

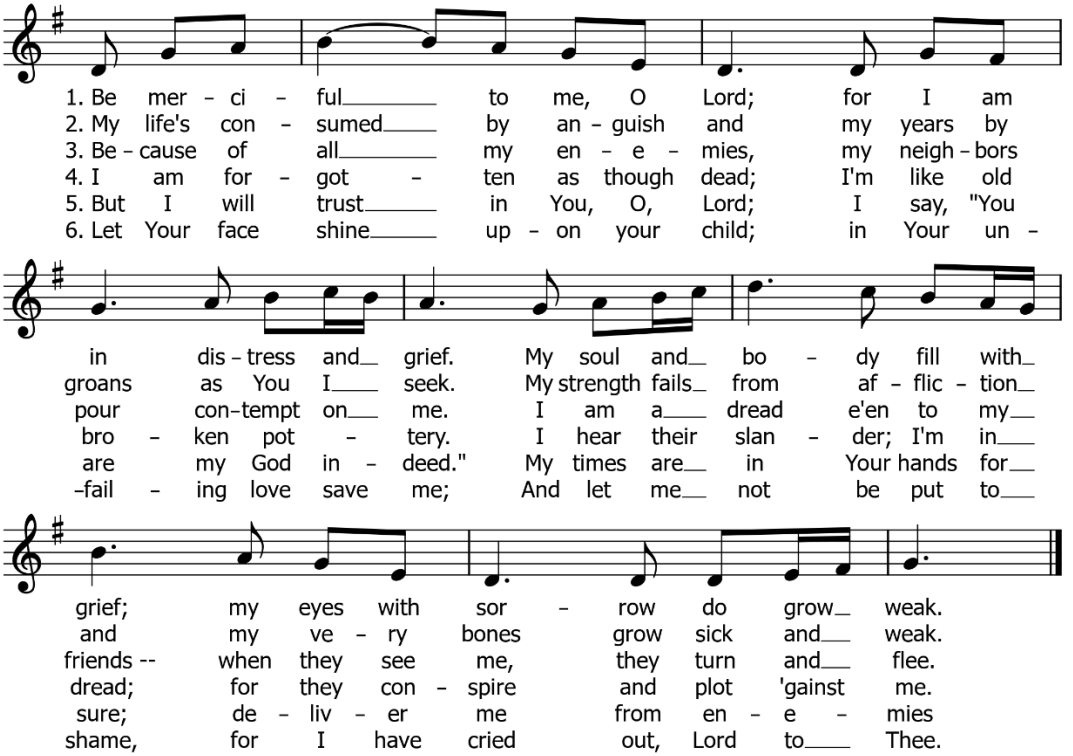
4 The Lord GOD has given me
a trained tongue,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens,
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I did not turn backward.
6 I gave my back to those who struck me
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8 he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand in court together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9a It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm: 31:9-17

(sung to the tune O Waly Waly (ELW 644))

This psalm could be sung by the servant in the First Reading, but Christians have seen it, like Psalm 22, as the cry of the suffering Christ.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

In almost all of his letters, Paul urges his hearers to support each other rather than to compete or to look out primarily for themselves. Here he quotes the earliest Christian hymn we have, to emphasize that the advice he gives is, in fact, the model of Jesus.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,

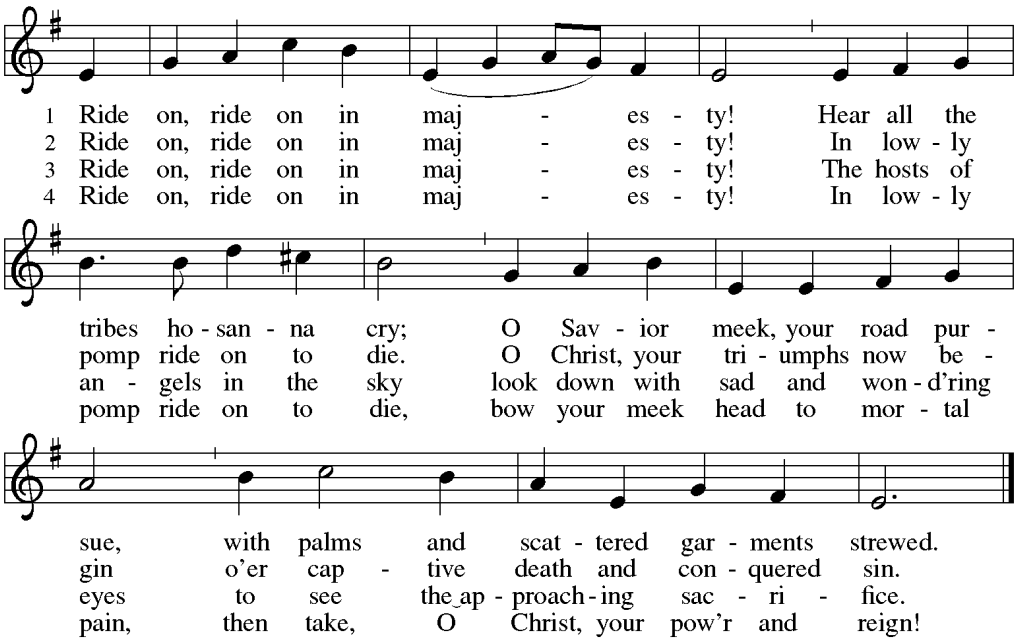
8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

(Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! (ELW 346))



Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993
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Homily

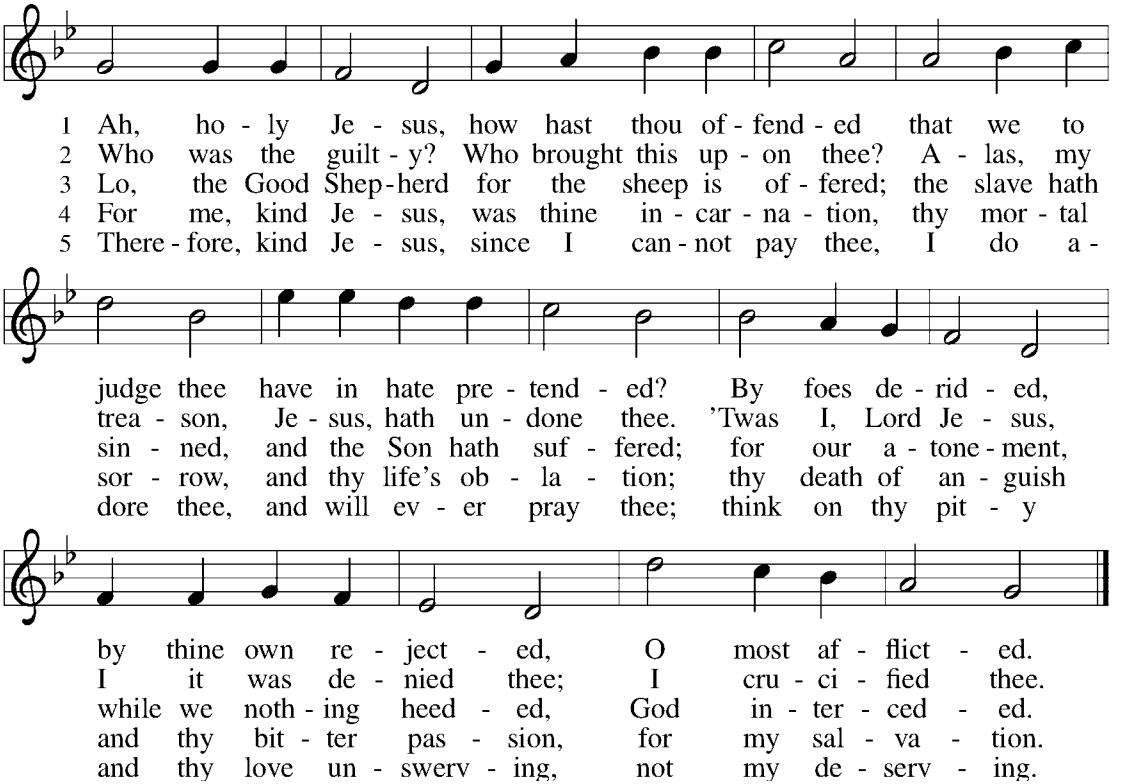
The Passion of our Lord according to Luke (22:1-23:56)

Luke presents the suffering and death of Jesus as his opportunity for healing – the soldier's ear, the enmity of Herod and Pilate, the crucifying soldiers and the thief crucified with him. Where Mark and Matthew describe Jesus as dying with a cry of abandonment, in Luke his last words are confident trust.

See inserted booklet.

- You're invited to speak the **bolded type** with the congregation.
- Please *stand* (as you are able) right after the narrator says, "and he handed Jesus over as they wished," which is the end of Luke 23:25.

Return the booklets after the service.

*Hymn of the Day: "*Ah, Holy Jesus*" (ELW 349)

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

*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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, especially Merle Neff, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy,
A: receive our prayer.

L: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
A: Amen.

*Peace

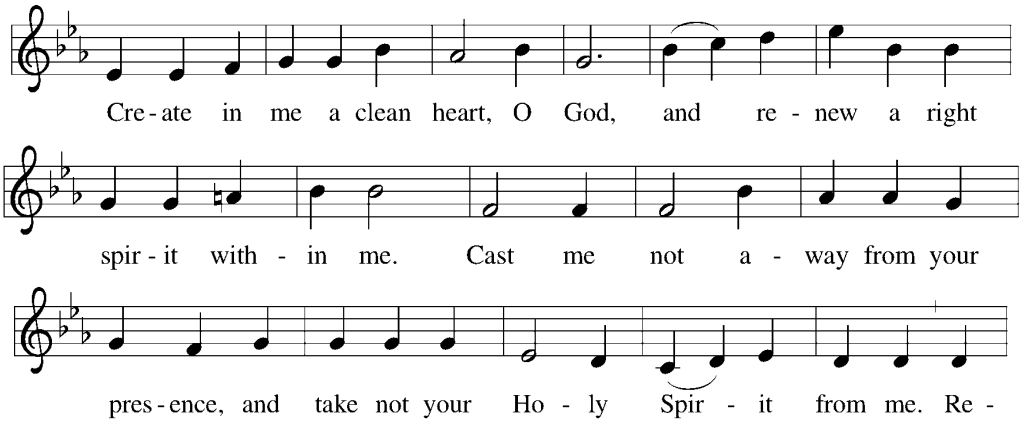
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

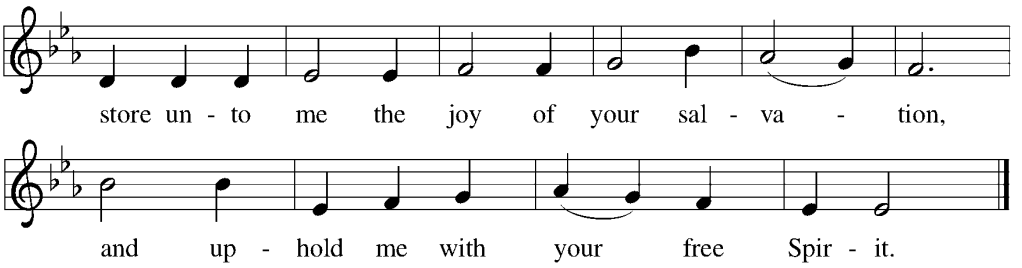
Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

*Offertory: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* *(ELW 188)*





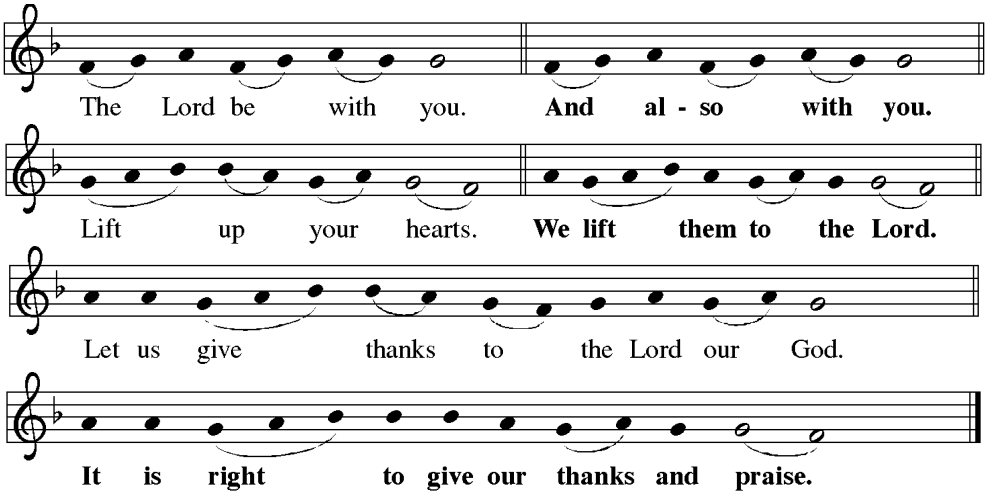
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

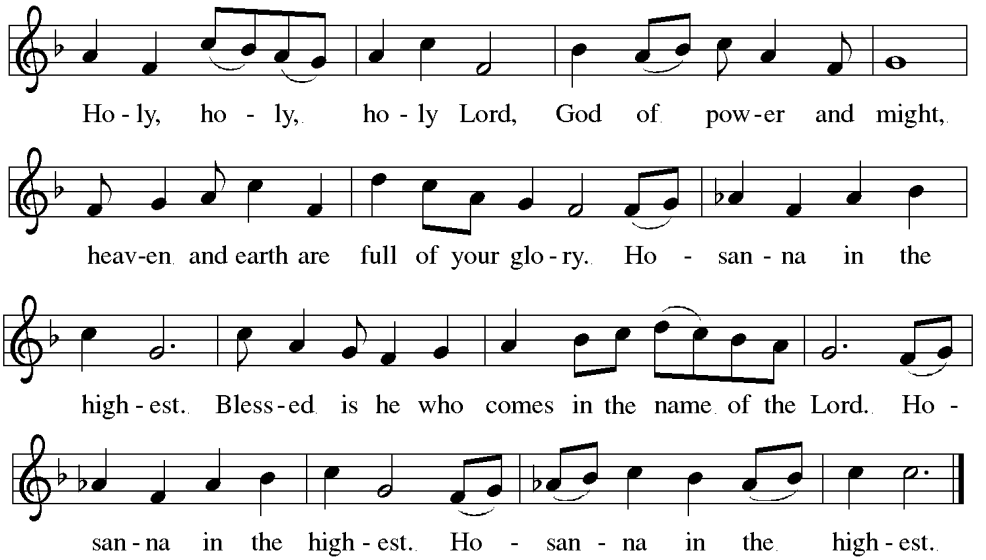
* DIALOGUE



*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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into 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: Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.
In the night in which he was handed over,
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.
Together we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
A: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

A: Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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

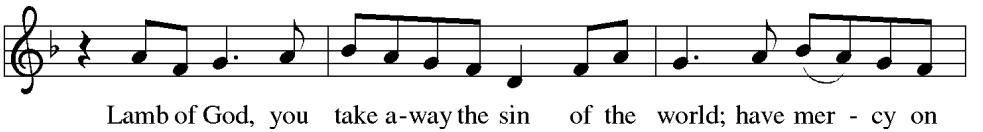
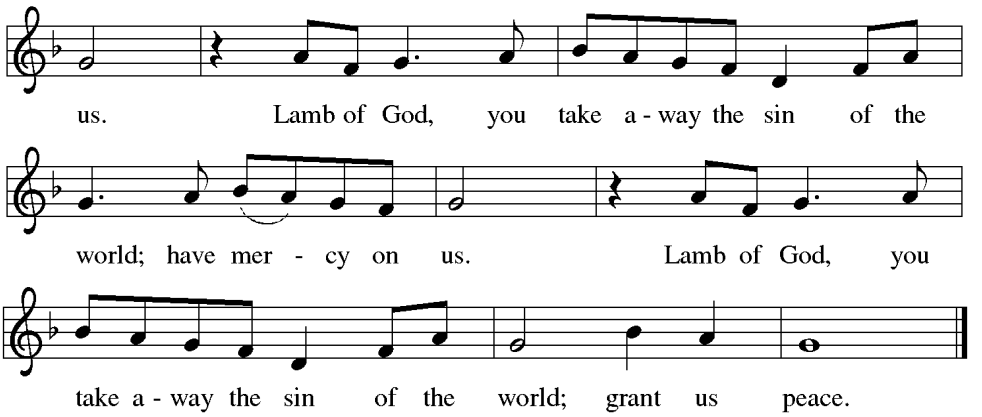
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

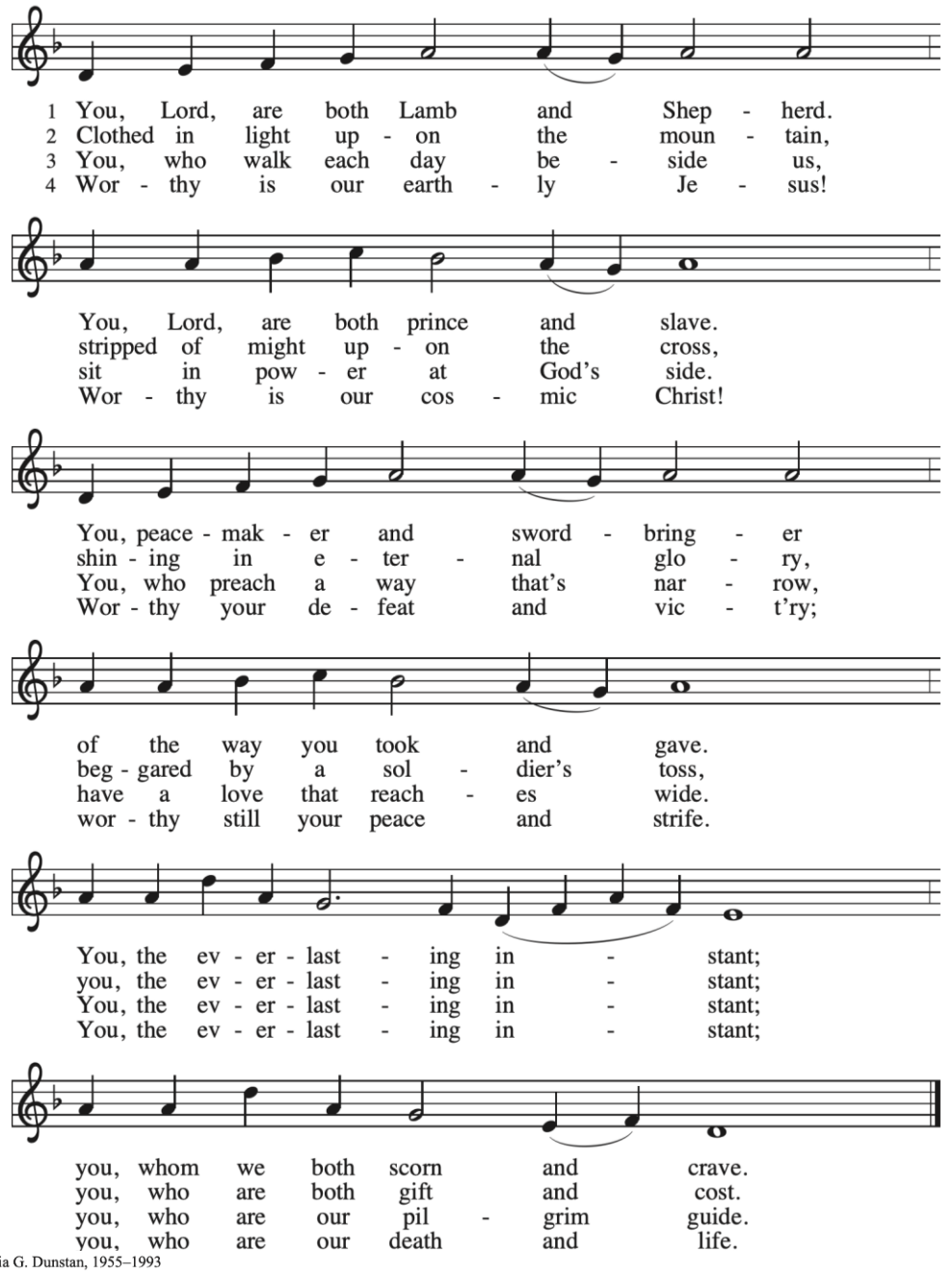
P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*Lamb of God



Communion

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

COMMUNION HYMN: *"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"* *(ACS 954)*



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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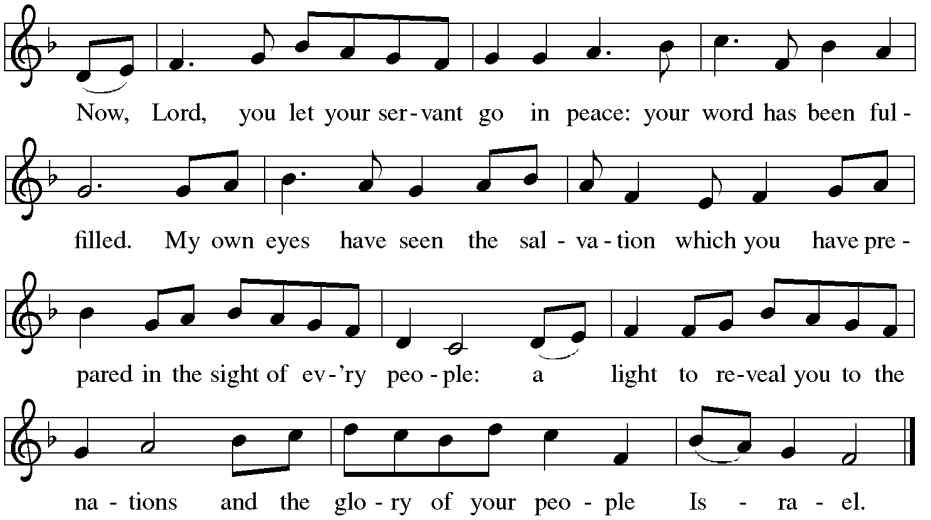
*Post-Communion Blessing

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. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Sending

*Sending of Communion

Announcements

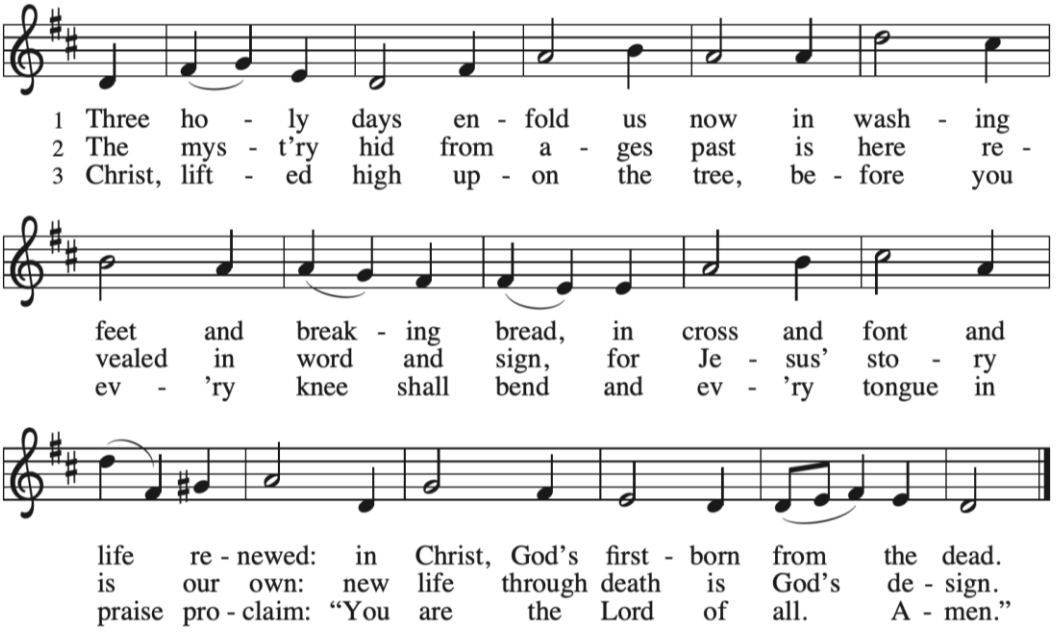
You may be seated.

*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: *" Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now"* *(ACS 930)*



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.
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*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share your bread. **A: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, April 13
Luke 19:28-40, Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 — 23:56
Luke 23:1-49 {alternate}

Monday, April 14
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11 (7)
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 15
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14 (6)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70 (1)
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 17
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 18
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22 (1)
Hebrews 10:16-25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 {alternate}
John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, April 19
Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1)
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13
Psalm 46 (7)

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Tingle
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

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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