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

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

7PM

April 19: The Great Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM
April 20: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)
Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM
Regular Service: 10AM

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**.

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.

An Introduction to the day

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **A: Amen.**

ANTHEM: *"A Mumblin Word"*

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

This reading is the last of the four "Servant Songs" from Isaiah (we heard another last Sunday). It is unclear whom the author intended this servant to be – the king, the prophet, or the whole nation, and the passages certainly outline the ministry God intended for Israel. To Christian ears the suffering, redemptive figure of the Servant points to Jesus

13 See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.
14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
15 so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
53:1 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

[4] Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
[5] But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
[8] By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
[9] They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

[10] Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
[11] Out of his anguish he shall see;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
[12] Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out himself to death
and was numbered with the transgressors,
yet he bore the sin of many
and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

Psalm: 22

(Sung to the tune Llangloffan)

This psalm, which Mark and Matthew report Jesus quoting from the cross, expresses the desolation, but also the ultimate confidence of one apparently deserted by God.

7. My strength is like a potsherd dried—my tongue impedes my breath,
   It sticks to my mouth's roof—You lay me in the dust of death.
   For dogs have compassed me about, and wicked men did meet;
   A band of men encircled me; they pierced my hands and feet.

8. I can count all my bones; and those who gloat upon me stare;
   They cast lots for my clothing and divide my garments there.
   Be not far off, O Lord, my strength; come quickly and help me;
   Deliver me from sword and dogs, my precious life set free.

9. Come rescue me from lions—from the mouth of lions strong,
   And from the horns of oxen wild that threaten all day long.
   I will declare Your name unto my brethren everywhere;
   Amidst the congregation round, Your praise I will declare.

10. All you who fear the Lord, praise Him; revere and glory tell;
    All Jacob's children, honor Him—offspring of Is-ra-el.
    For He did not despise nor scorn th'afflicted's suffering;
    Nor hid His face from him, but heard the cry which he did bring.

11. Within the congregation great, my praise shall be of Thee;
    Before all those who fear You, I'll fulfill my vows to Thee.
    The poor shall eat, and shall be filled; those seeking God will give
    praise to the Lord; all you who seek—may your hearts ever live!

12. And all the ends of earth shall turn, remembering the Lord;
    All fam'lies of the nations will bow down and praise accord.
    For all dominion far and near belongs to Him alone.
    The Lord rules over nations all, from His almighty throne.

13. The rich of earth will worship Him, all who to dust descend;
    And all shall kneel—none of them can their soul from death defend.
    Descendants, then, will all serve Him—the children yet to be;
    They will be told about the Lord, future posterity.

14. For they shall come, and shall declare His truth and righteousness
    unto a people yet unborn, for He has done all this.
    I will declare Your name unto my brethren everywhere;
    Amidst the congregation round, Your praise I will declare.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

The author of Hebrews has just described the old sacrificial system, in which the priest must offer sacrifice for sin over and over again. Now, after a quote from Ezekiel, that author compares that "shadow of the good things to come" with Jesus' self-sacrifice.

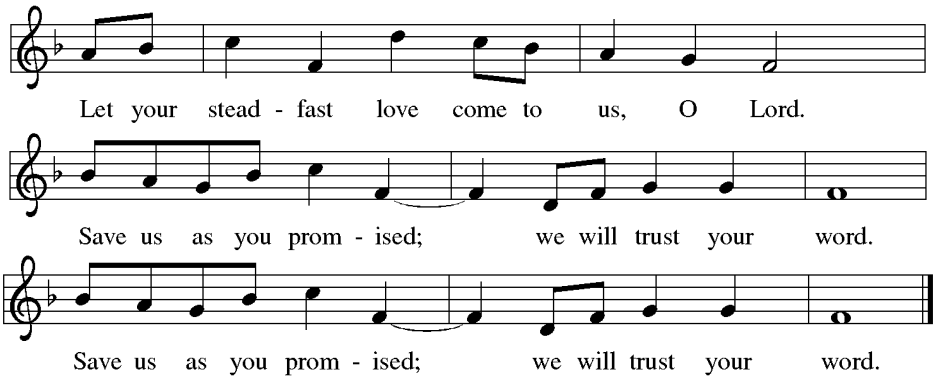
[After the Holy Spirit says,] 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"
17 and he adds,
"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregard- | ing its shame,* and has taken his seat at the right hand of the | throne of God.



Homily

*Hymn of the Day: *"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"* (ELW 351)

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

*Prayers of Intercession

Bidding Prayer

The assembly kneels or sits. The assisting minister leads the invitations to prayer (the bids). Silence for prayer follows each bid. The presiding minister leads the prayers that conclude the silence.

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for Bishop Collins and Bishop Eaton, Pastor Tomkiel, our deacon(s), and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**
Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

All pray the Lord's Prayer.

*Lord's Prayer

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.

*Procession of the Cross

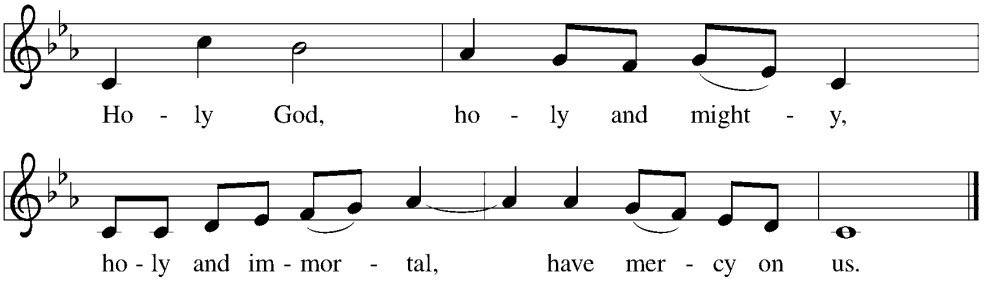
The following dialogue is sung as the procession begins, the assembly echoing the leader.
P: Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
A: Oh, come, let us worship him.

The dialogue is sung a second time at the midpoint of the procession.
Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
A: Oh, come, let us worship him.
The dialogue is sung a third time at the end of the procession.
Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.
A: Oh, come, let us worship him.

*Solemn Reproaches

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me.
I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response:



Music: Mark Mummert, b. 1965
Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way;
I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

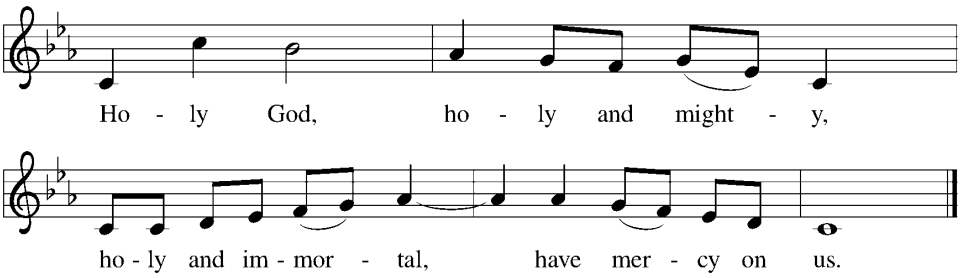
Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink;
I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response:



Music: Mark Mummert, b. 1965
Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response.

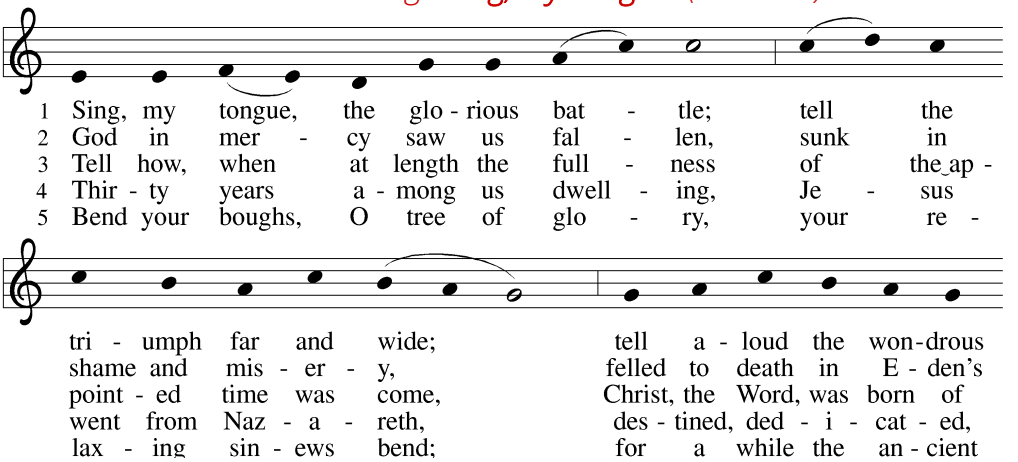
O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you?
Answer me.
I came to you in the least of your brothers and sisters, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

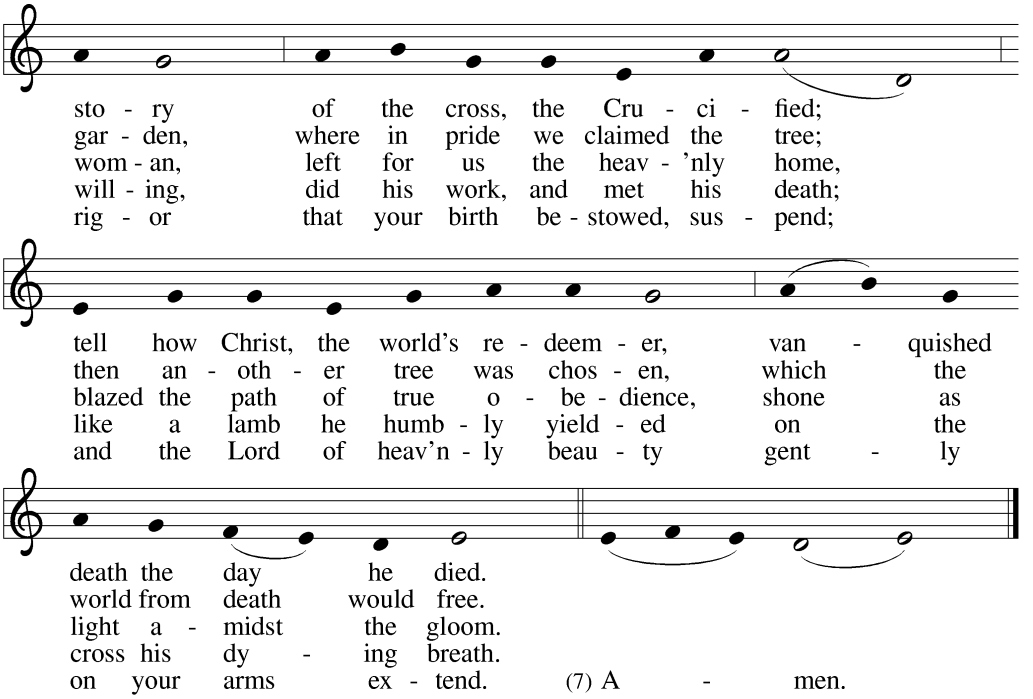
Response.

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All stand and sing: "Sing, My Tongue" (ELW 355)





6 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be;
symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free.

7 Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to the eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest,
while the timeless ages run. Amen.

Any may come forward to reverence the cross.

All depart in silence. Good Friday does not have a Sending or Dismissal. Return tomorrow for our Easter Vigil service at 7PM.

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Eleanor Bird
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Morgen Hummel

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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