ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Second Sunday of easter

April 27, 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

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

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

*Paschal Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

P Most merciful God, **A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.**

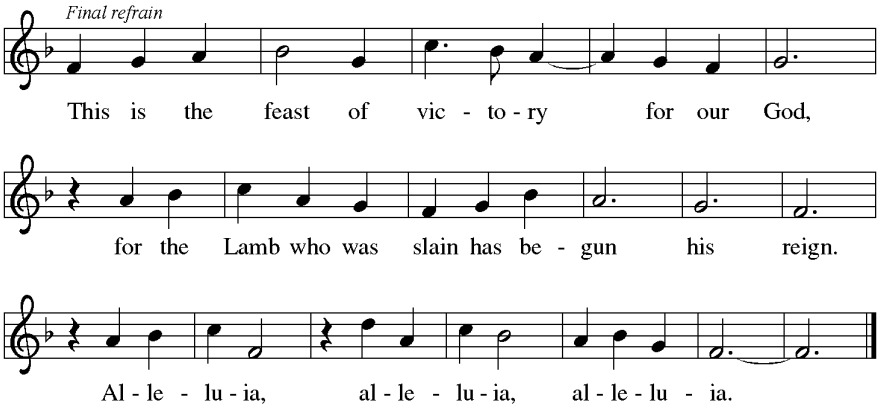
*Gathering Hymn *"The Day of Resurrection!"* *(ELW 361)*

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

*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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

Word

First Reading: 2 Kings 7:1-16

The Arameans had laid siege the capital of Israel. Cut off from supplies the residents were close to death by starvation; indeed, "a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver." But with God there are no hopeless situations..

[1]But Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the LORD, Tomorrow about this
time a measure of choice meal shall be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for
a shekel, at the gate of Samaria." [2]Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said
to the man of God, "Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a
thing happen?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat
from it."
[3]Now there were four leprous men outside the city gate, who said to one another, "Why
should we sit here until we die? [4]If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city,
and we shall die there; but if we sit here, we shall also die. Therefore, let us desert to the
Aramean camp; if they spare our lives, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but
die." [5]So they arose at twilight to go to the Aramean camp; but when they came to the
edge of the Aramean camp, there was no one there at all. [6]For the LORD had caused the

Aramean army to hear the sound of chariots, and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to fight against us." [7]So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys leaving the camp just as it was, and fled for their lives. [8]When these leprous men had come to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, carried off silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. Then they came back, entered another tent, carried off things from it, and went and hid them.
[9]Then they said to one another, "What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell the king's household." [10]So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, "We went to the Aramean camp, but there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied, the donkeys tied, and the tents as they were." [11]Then the gatekeepers called out and proclaimed it to the king's household. [12]The king got up in the night, and said to his servants, "I will tell you what the Arameans have prepared against us. They know that we are starving; so they have left the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.'" [13]One of his servants said, "Let some men take five of the remaining horses, since those left here will suffer the fate of the whole multitude of Israel that have perished already; let us send and find out." [14]So they took two mounted men, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, "Go and find out." [15]So they went after them as far as the Jordan; the whole way was littered with garments and equipment that the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned, and told the king.
[16]Then the people went out, and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a measure of choice meal was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

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

Psalm 2

(sung to the tune Munich)

Whether it is the power of the Arameans or the Romans, or the power of sin and death, God breaks anything which holds God's people in bondage.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

During the Easter season this year, the second readings are from the book of Revelation. This description of an ecstatic vision is addressed by John (traditionally the author of the Gospel, but it was as common a name then as now) to seven churches in Turkey, offering consolation and encouragement as they face persecution under the Roman authorities.

[4] John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood [6] and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and

ever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.
So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

*Gospel: John 20:19-31 *"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"* *(ELW 386)*

On Easter morning, after bringing Peter and the beloved disciple to see the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene stayed behind by herself. Jesus appeared to her and sent her to reassure the twelve. This passage follows immediately, and then continues a week later, on the Sunday after Easter.

Hymn Sing

*Invitation to Baptism

*Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

L: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities (*current issues of concern may be named*). Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember the faithful departed from all times and places, especially Louise Henry and Ruby Newman. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
A: Amen.

*Peace

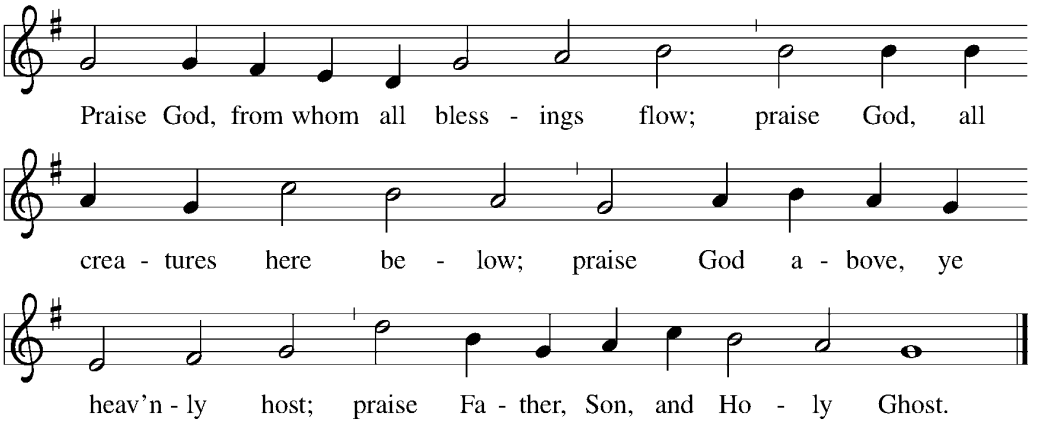
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

*Offertory: *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* *(ELW 885)*



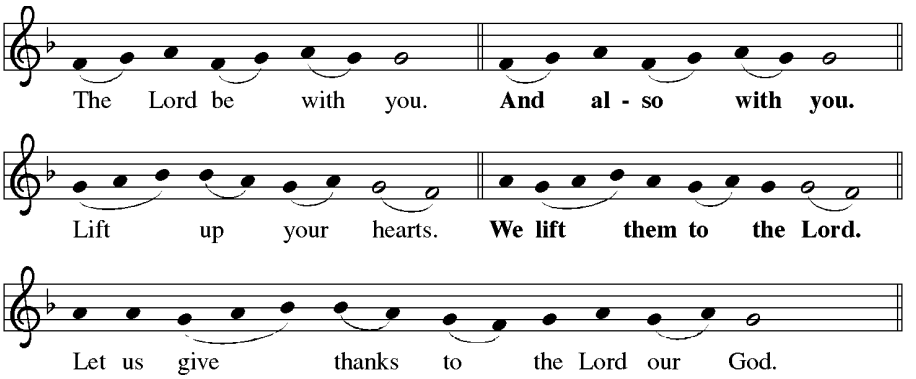
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

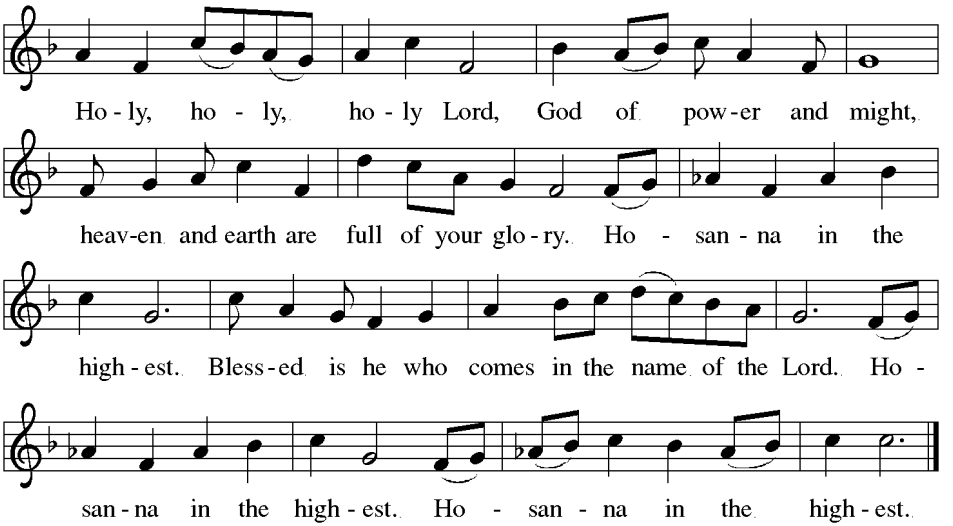
* DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.
We give you thanks for Jesus
who, living among us,
healed the sick,

fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.
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.
Through our remembrance we proclaim the mystery of our faith
A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Remembering, therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.
A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness 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. Alleluia!

*Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us

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;

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.

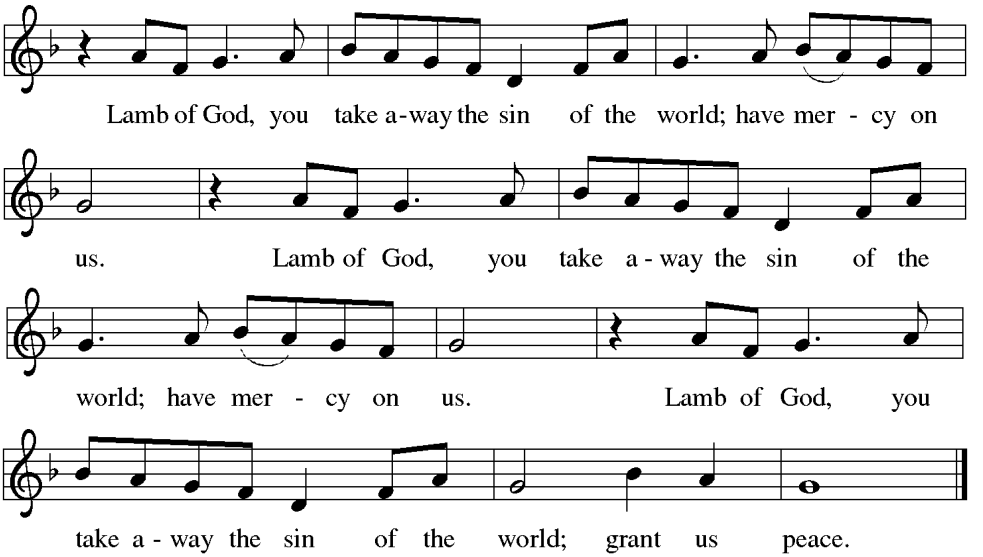
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life..

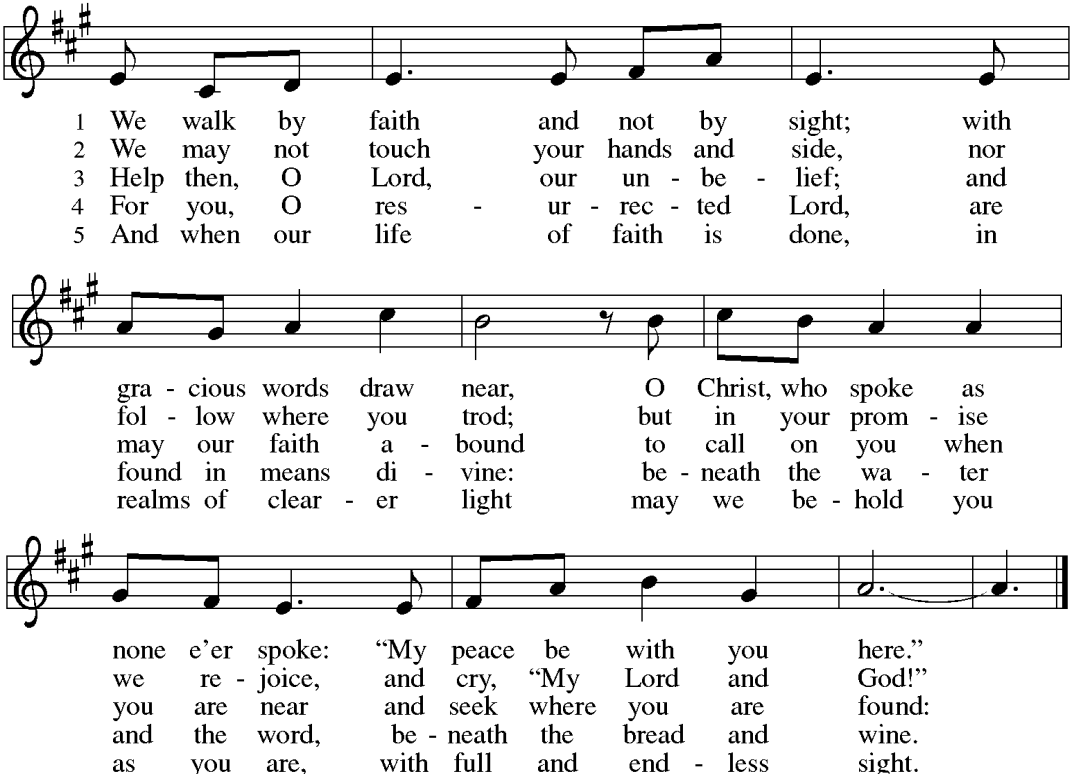
*Lamb of God



Communion

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

*Communion Hymn: *"We Walk by Faith"* *(ELW 635)*



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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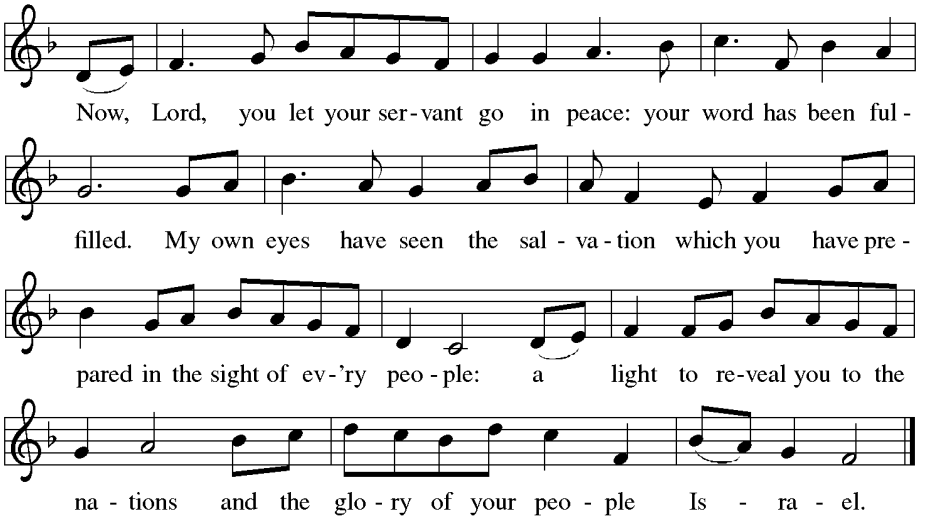
*Post-Communion Blessing

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. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **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: *"The Risen Christ"* *(ELW 390)*

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Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949
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*Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, April 27
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 (8)
Psalm 150 (6) {alternate}
Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

Monday, April 28
Esther 7:1-10
Revelation 1:9-20
Psalm 122

Tuesday, April 29
Esther 8:1-17
Revelation 2:8-11
Psalm 122

Wednesday, April 30
Esther 9:1-5, 18-23
Luke 12:4-12
Psalm 122

Thursday, May 1
Isaiah 5:11-17
Revelation 3:14-22
Psalm 30

Friday, May 2
Isaiah 6:1-4
Revelation 4:1-11
Psalm 30

Saturday, May 3
Genesis 18:1-8
Luke 14:12-14
Psalm 30

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
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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