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

Third Sunday in Easter

May 4, 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

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

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

*Confession and forgiveness

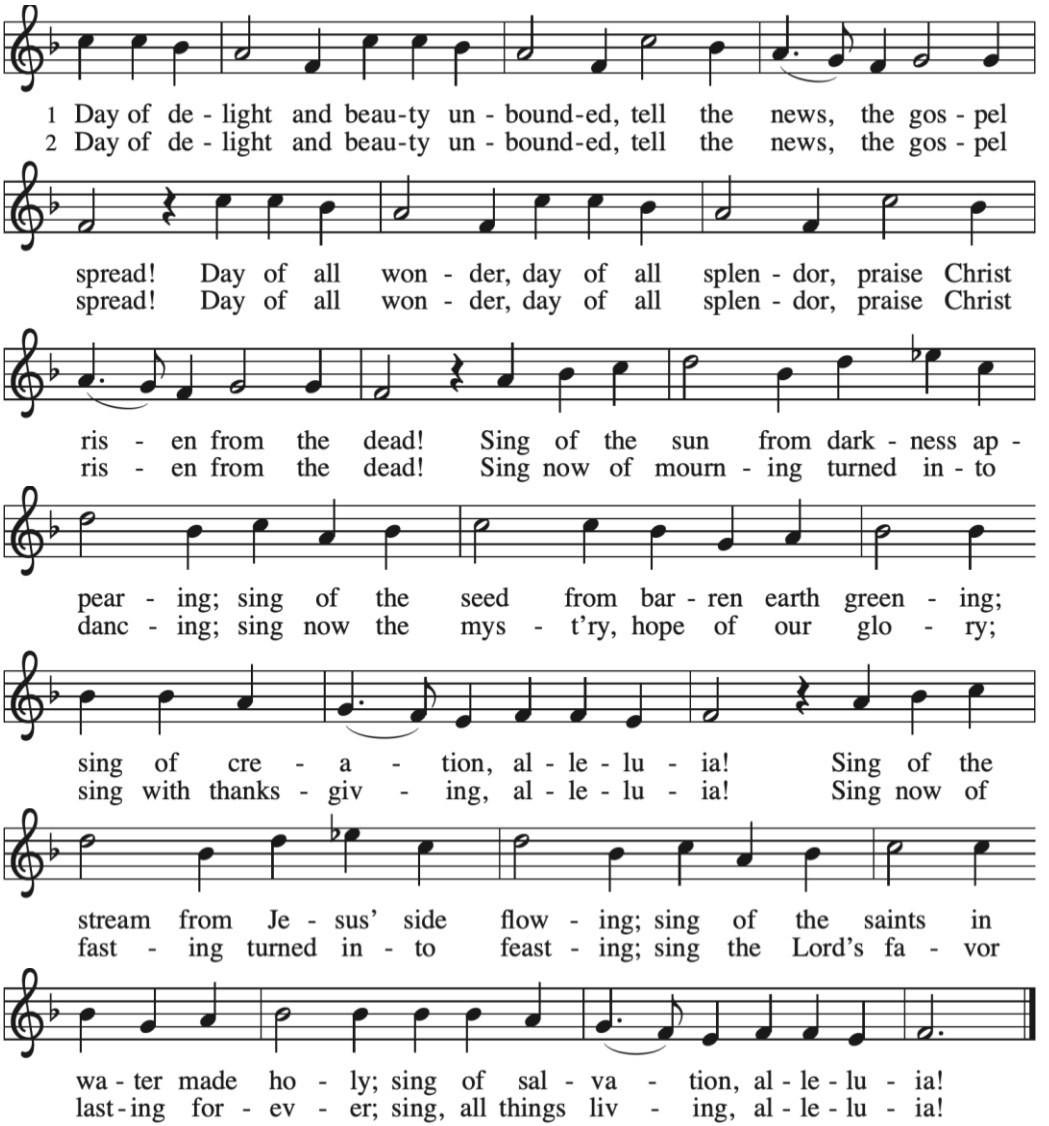
P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

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 *"Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded"* *(ACS 933)*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622
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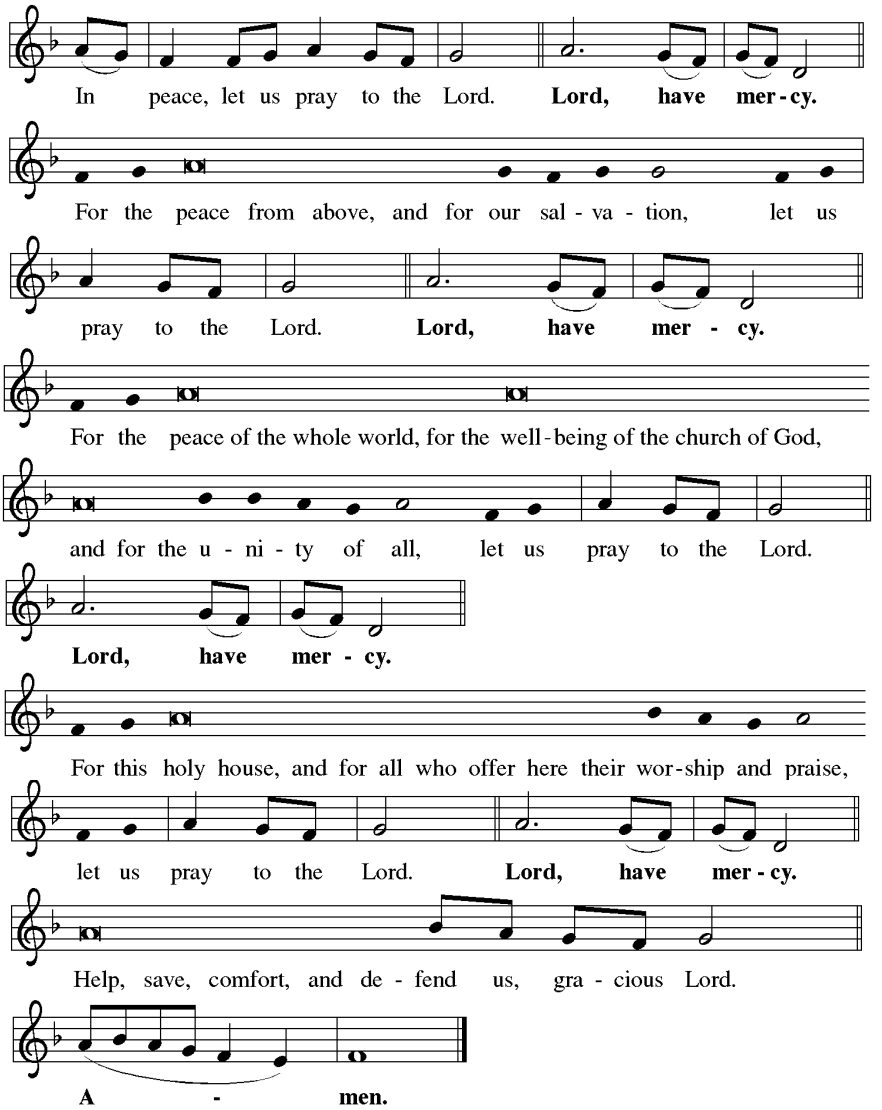
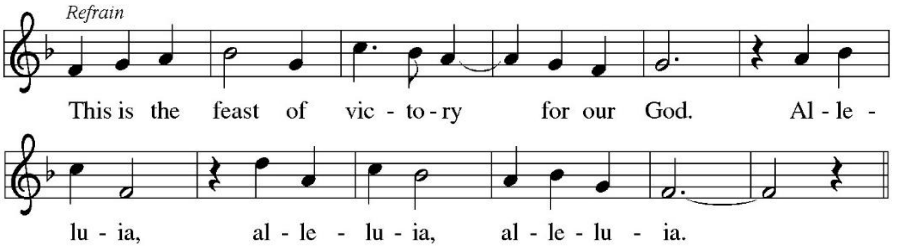
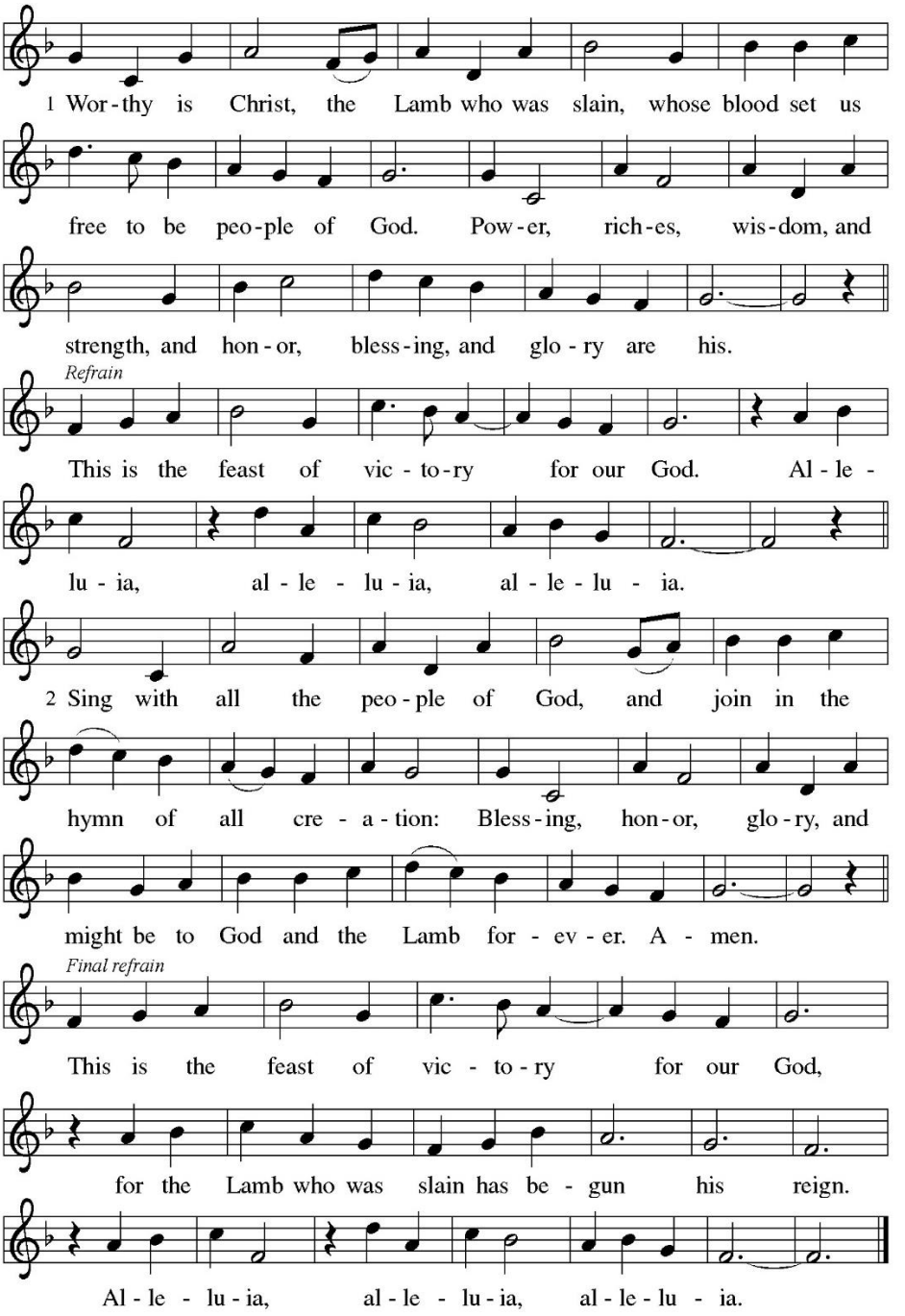
*Greeting

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

*THIS IS THE FEAST



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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: Isaiah 61:1-3

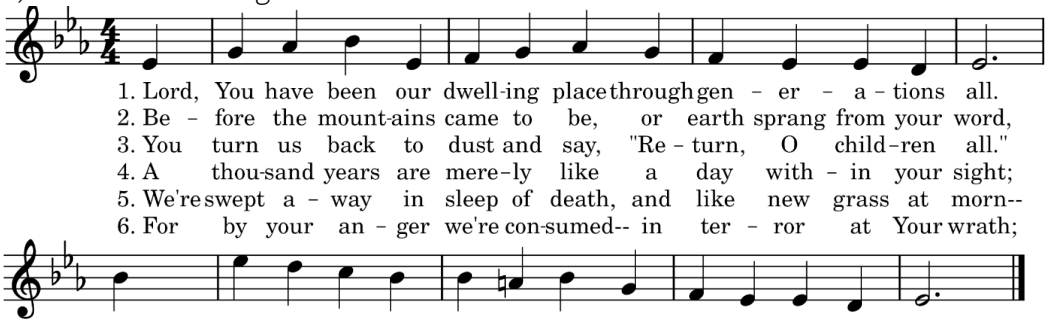
In this section of Isaiah, the prophet is speaking to those who had returned from a 70 year exile to rebuild Jerusalem and its temple. In his first sermon (Luke 4:16-21) Jesus claims this prophet's mission of consolation, healing, and liberation. The "year of the Lord's favor" is the jubilee year: every 50 years debts were to be cancelled, and slaves set free.

[1]The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
[2]to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
[3]to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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

Psalm 90:13-17 *(sung to the tune Dundee)*

This psalm is the cry of those who need to hear the assuring words of the prophet (and of Christ) in the First Reading.



7. Our days pass quickly in Your wrath; years like a sigh are past.
Our length of days is seventy, or eighty if strength last.

8. And yet their span is trouble-filled, and sorrow marks our way;
Days quickly pass and soon are gone, and we just fly away.

9. Who knows the pow-er of Your wrath? It's great as fear You're due!
Teach us to number right our days, and gain Your wisdom true.

10. Relent, O Lord! How long till You have mercy on Your saints?
Come satisfy us in the morn with love that never faints.

11. Then we will sing for joy, and will be glad for all our days.
O make us glad as many days as we've known troubled ways.

12. May Your deeds and Your works be shown unto Your servants all;
Your splendor to their children and to those who on You call.

13. May God's good favor rest on us—our work before Him stand.
Yes, Lord our God, establish firm the work of our own hands.

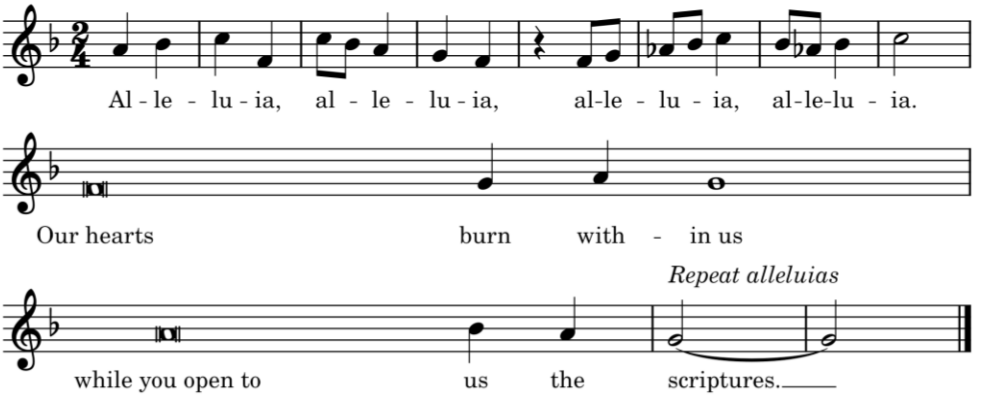
Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

During the Easter season this year, the second reading will be from the book of Revelation. One of the central images of John's vision is of Christ as the crucified and resurrected Lamb of God – drawing on the traditions of the Passover Lamb and the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement. Here he is acclaimed as the only one able to open the scroll which brings in the final judgment.

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the
living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of
thousands, 12 singing with full voice,
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"
13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the
sea and all that is in them, singing,
"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"
14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading: John 21:1-25

The Gospel of John seems originally to have ended with the story of the appearance to the resurrected Jesus to the disciples on the Sunday after Easter. However, this story was added. It describes an appearance some time later, and establishes Peter as the leader of the infant

church. His three-fold affirmation of his love for Jesus is often seen as a healing of his three-fold denial of Jesus before the crucifixion.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twenty-first chapter.
A: Glory to you, O Lord.

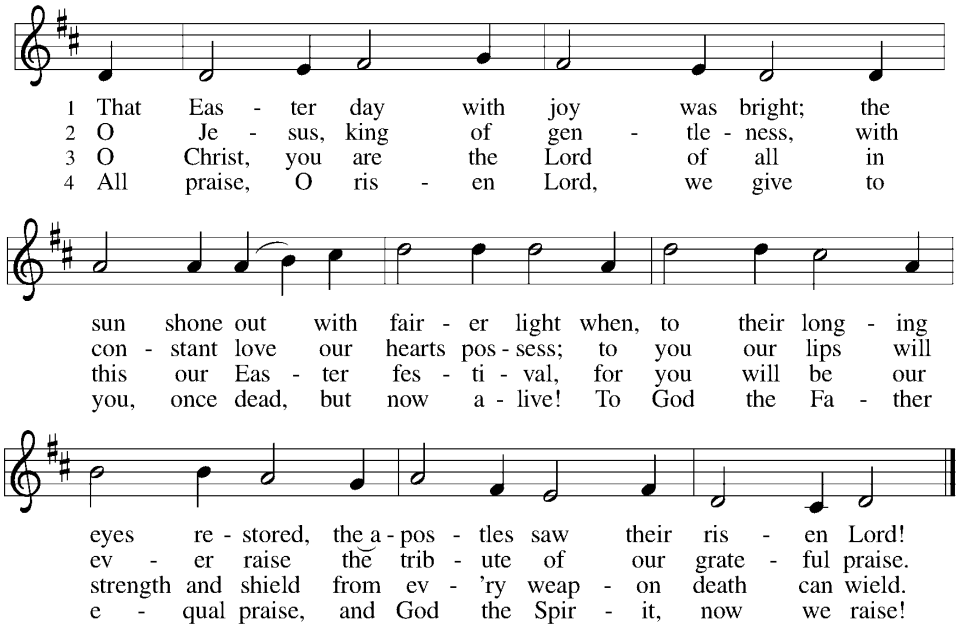
After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. [2]Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. [3]Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
[4]Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. [5]Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." [6]He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. [7]That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. [8]But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.
[9]When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. [10]Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." [11]So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. [12]Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. [13]Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. [14]This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.
[15]When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." [16]A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." [17]He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. [18]Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to

go." [19](He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."
[20]Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" [21]When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" [22]Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" [23]So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"
[24]This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. [25]But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: *"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"* (ELW 384)



Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

*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

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: Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries, especially Slab Cabin Run, Beaver Branch, and Rock Spring, so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places especially Monica, mother of Augustine and Grace Keller Wheeland. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God. **L: 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

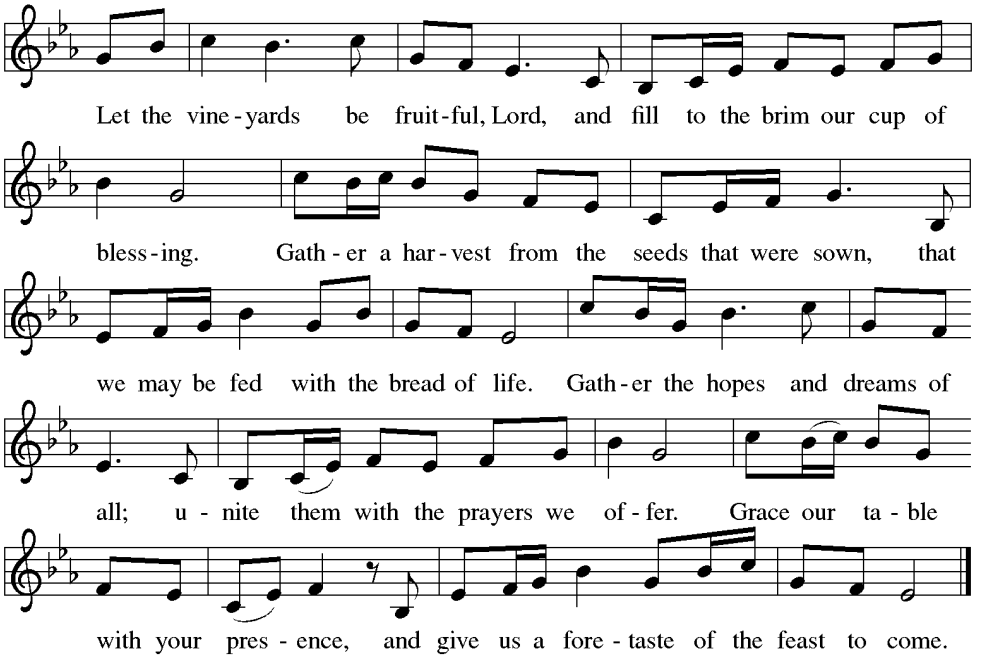
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

*Offertory: *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"* *(ELW 184)*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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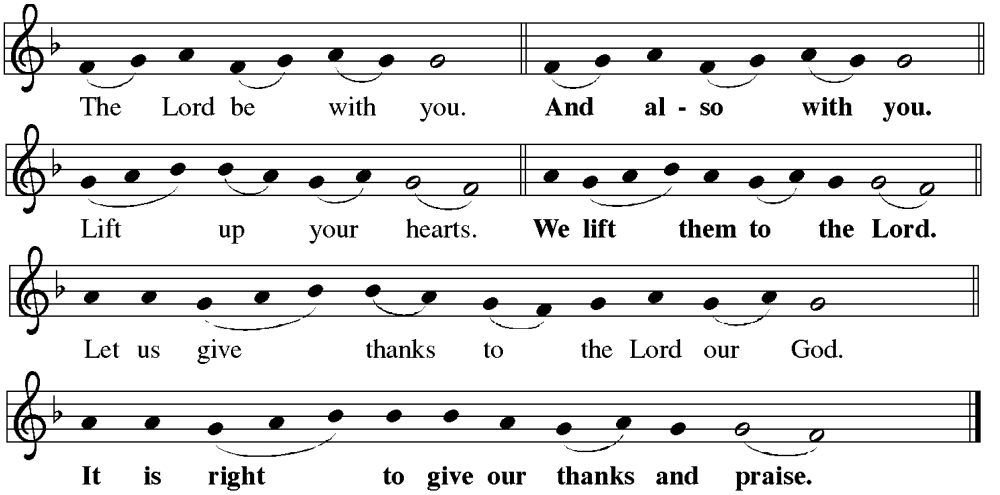
*Offering Prayer

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

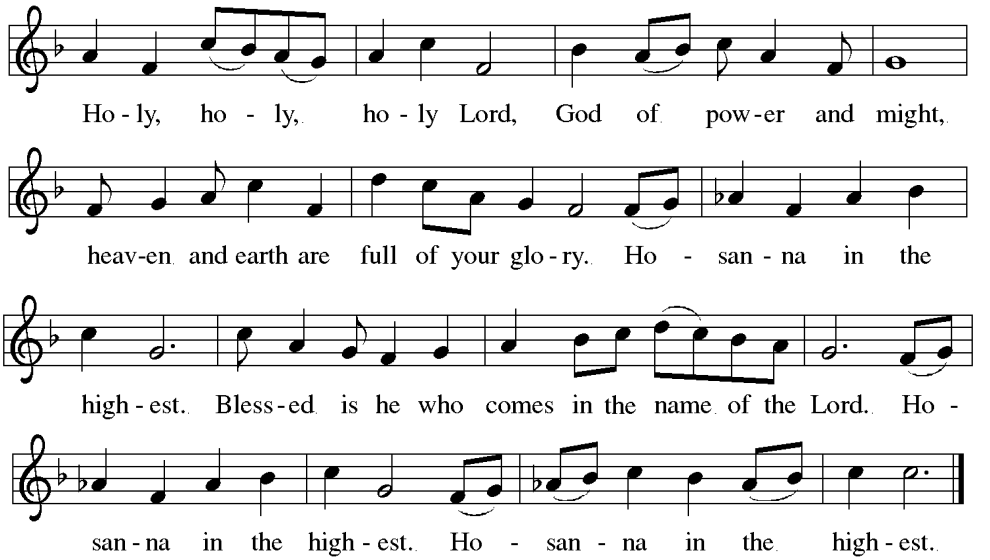
* DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

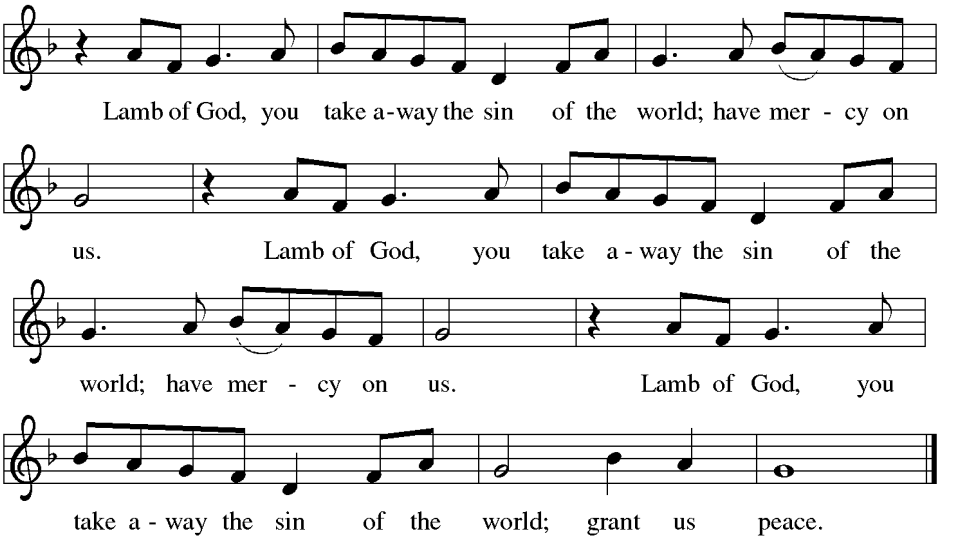
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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

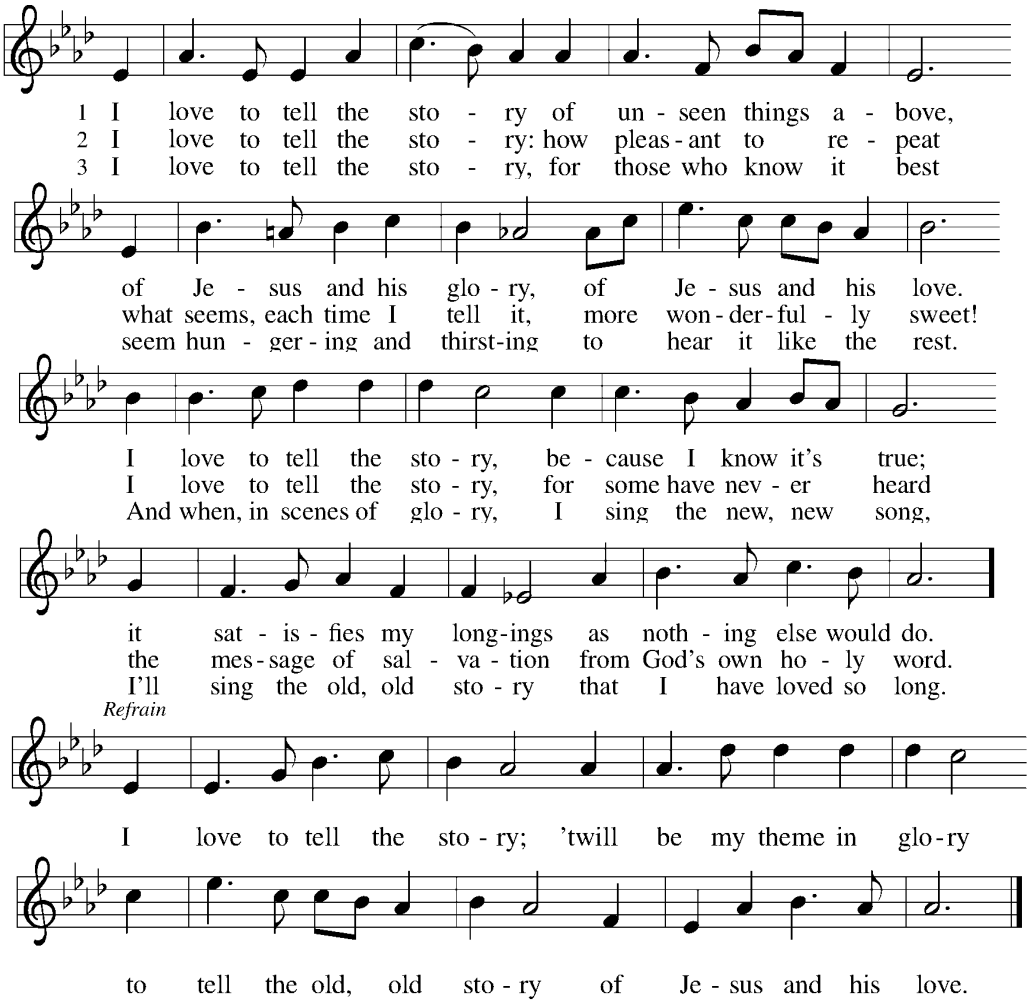
P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*Lamb of God



Communion

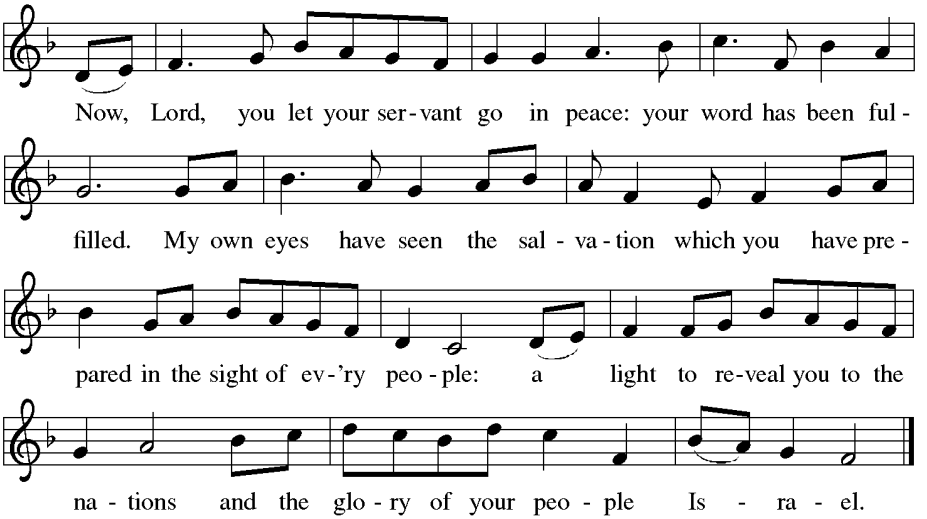
P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: *"I Love to Tell the Story"* *(ELW 661)*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*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

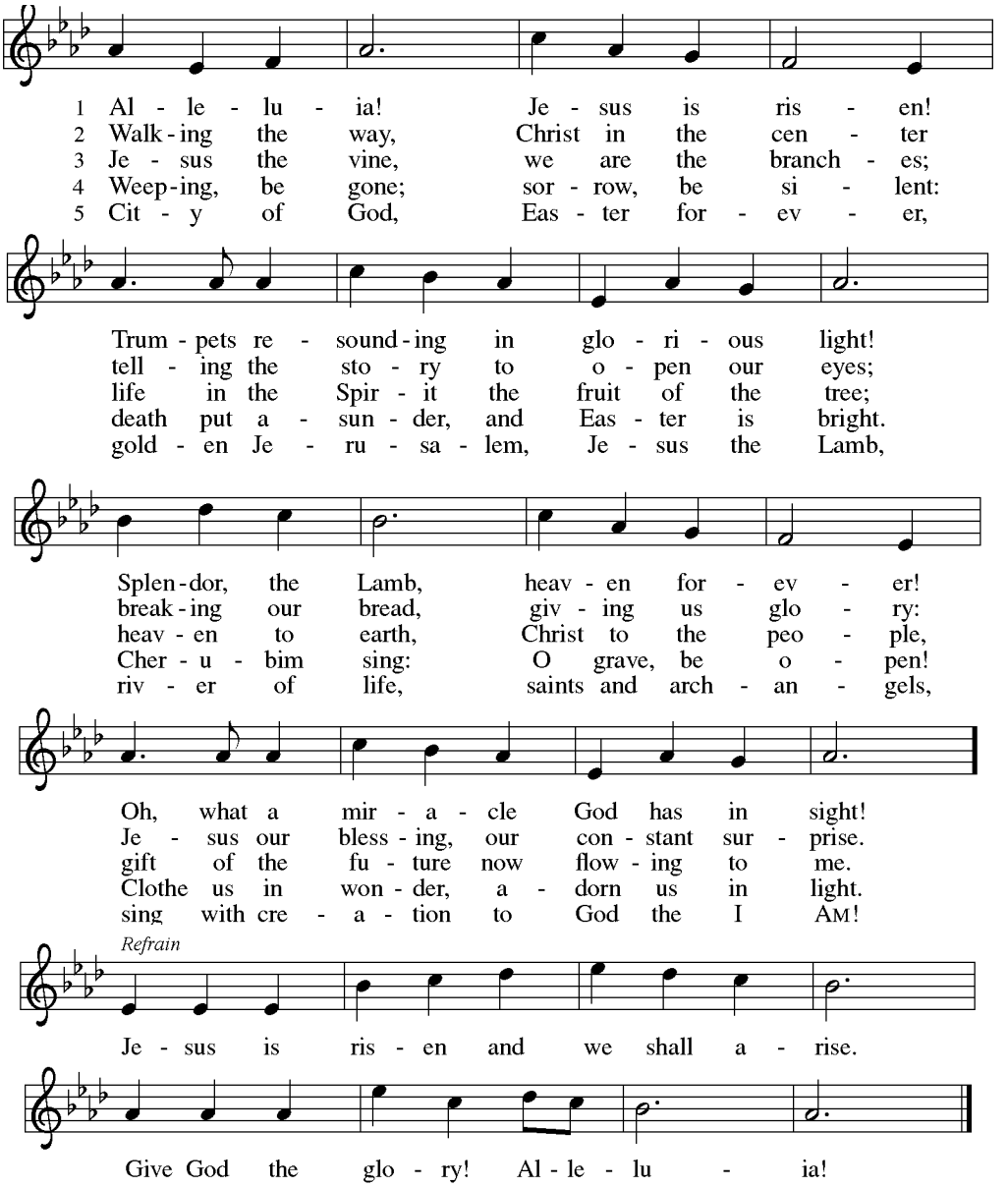
Announcements

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: *"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"* *(ELW 377)*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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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, May 4
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30 (11)
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Monday, May 5
Ezekiel 1:1-25
Acts 9:19b-31
Psalm 121

Tuesday, May 6
Ezekiel 1:26—2:1
Acts 26:1-18
Psalm 121

Wednesday, May 7
Isaiah 6:1-8
Luke 5:1-11
Psalm 121

Thursday, May 8
Ezekiel 11:1-25
Revelation 5:1-10
Psalm 23

Friday, May 9
Ezekiel 20:39-44
Revelation 6:1—7:4
Psalm 23

Saturday, May 10
Ezekiel 28:25-26
Luke 12:29-32
Psalm 23

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.....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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