ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

MAY 11, 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 gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

P: 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.

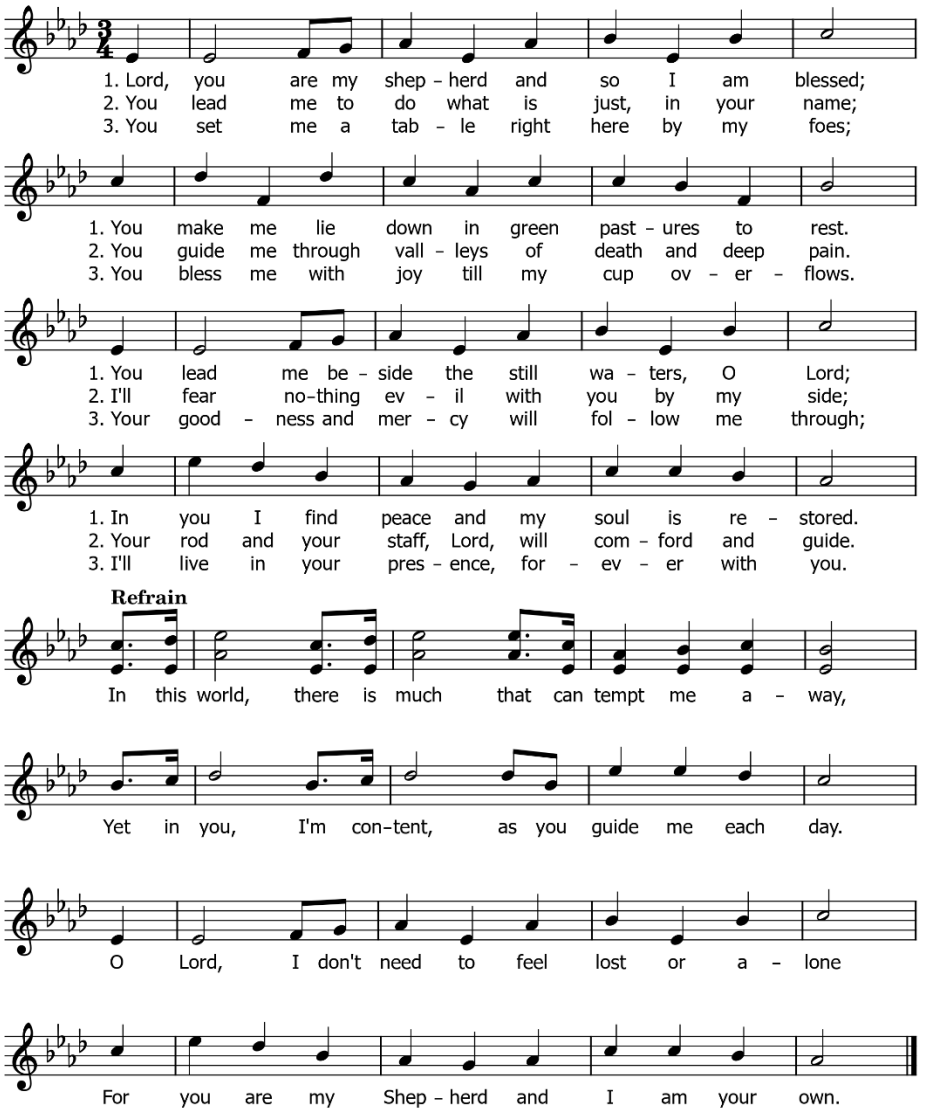
P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
A: Amen.

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 *"Lord, You Are My Shepherd"*



Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")
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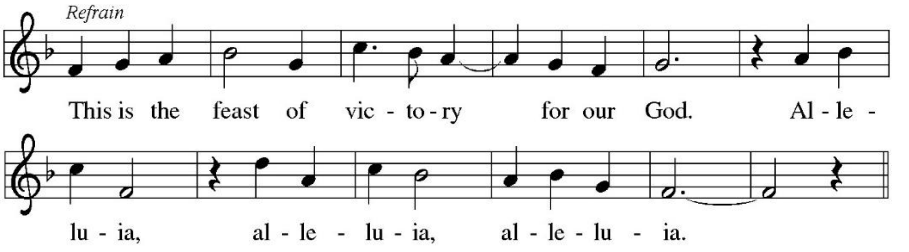
*GREETING

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. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through 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 53:1-6

This passage, the fourth of the Servant Songs in Isaiah, describes someone whose obedience to God leads to suffering for the good of others. It is not clear whether the Servant was intended to be the king, the nation of Israel as a whole, or the prophet himself. But Christians unavoidably apply these passages to Christ, and to all who follow his path. The last verse makes this an appropriate reading for "Good Shepherd Sunday."

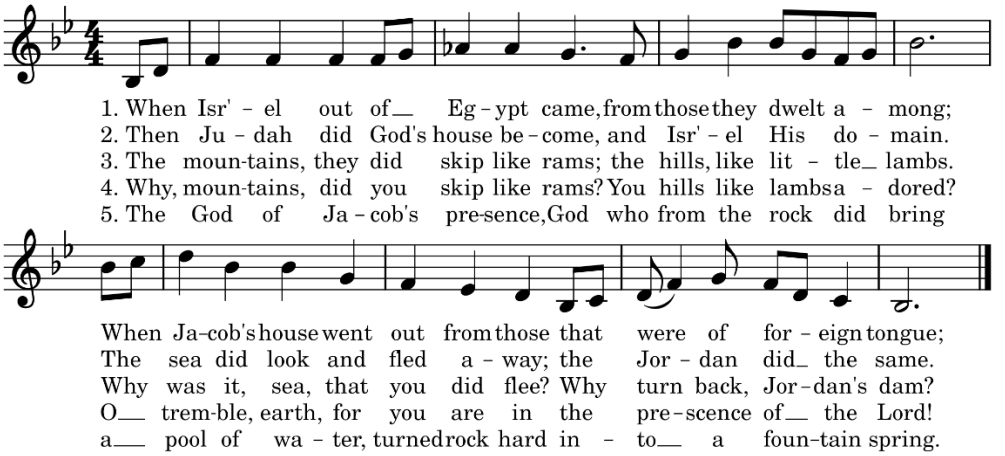
[1]Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
[2]For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
[3]He was despised 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.

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

Psalm 114

(sung to the tune Llangloffan)

This psalm is the song of those who benefit from the liberating power of God – for Christians, through the suffering of Christ. It also includes the mountains and hills among the jubilant flock of the Good Shepherd.



Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd, but the Lamb – sacrificed at Passover to preserve Israel from the angel of death; and sent into the wilderness on the Day of Atonement burdened with the sins of the nation.

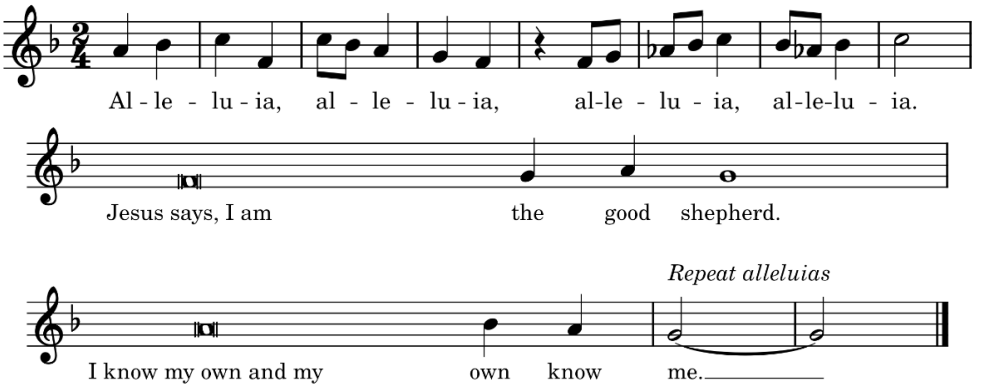
9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and
before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in
a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and
might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and
where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he
said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed
their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night
within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

[16] They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,

[17] for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

With these verses Jesus finishes his explanation of what it means for him to be the Good Shepherd. The "festival of the Dedication" is Hanukkah, commemorating the liberation of the Temple from the occupying Greeks and its re-consecration.

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

[22] At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, [23] and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. [24] So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." [25] Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, [26] but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. [27] My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. [28] I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. [29] My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] The Father and I are one." \

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

Sermon

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"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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*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: You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints especially Ted Kemmerer, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. 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

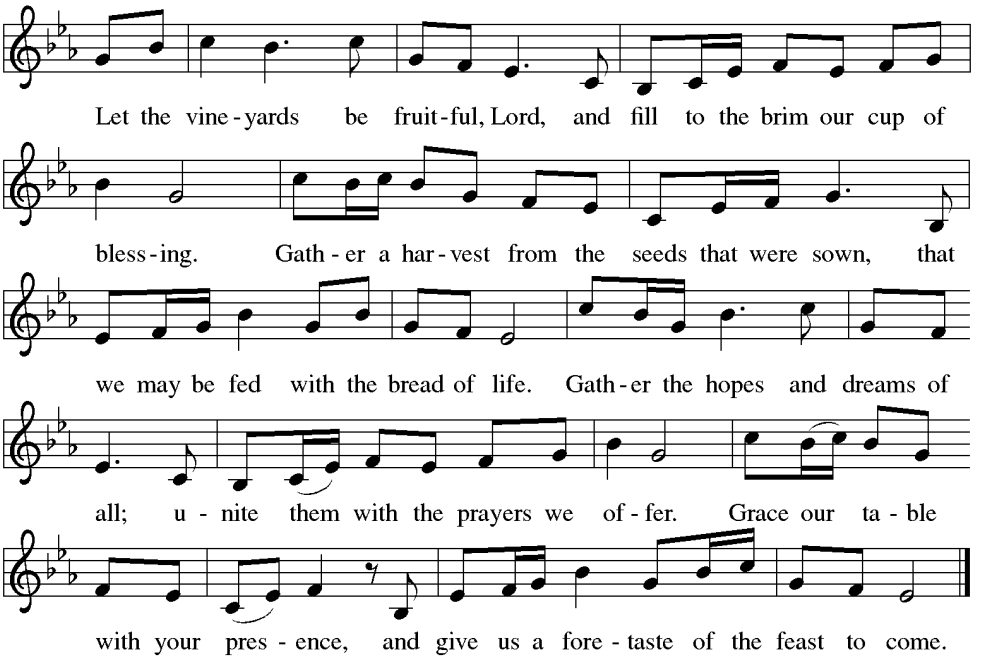
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

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



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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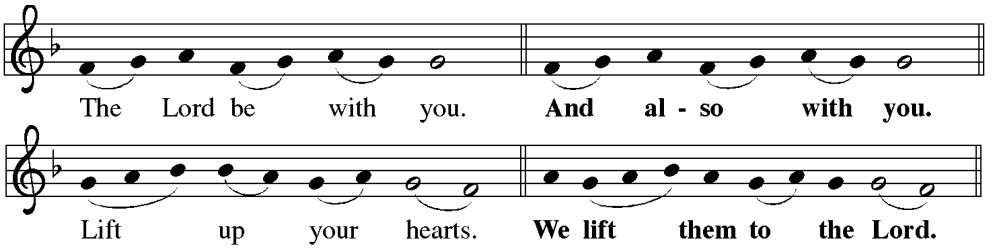
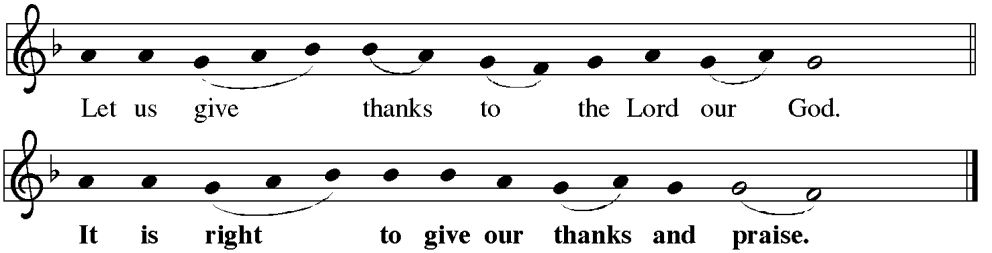
*Offering Prayer

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

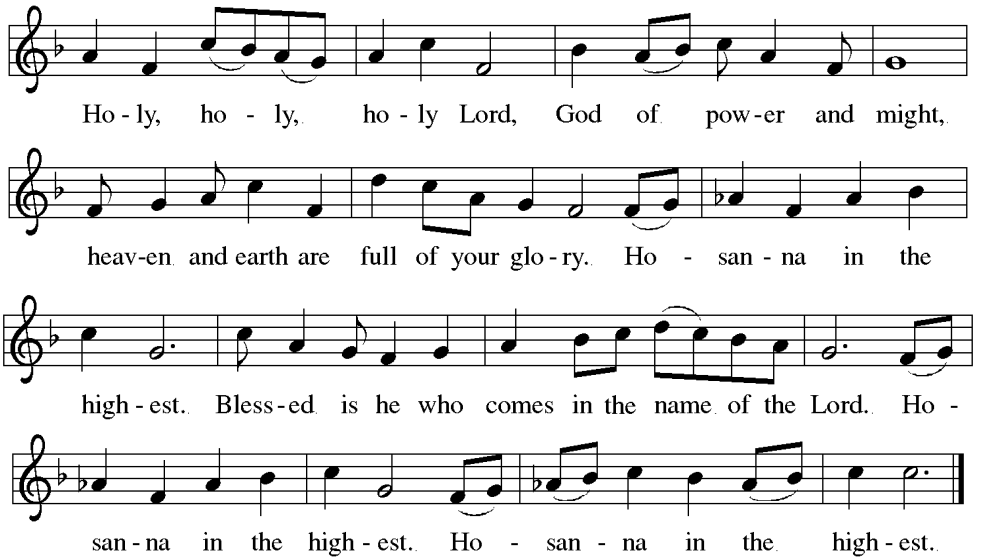




*PREFACE

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

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

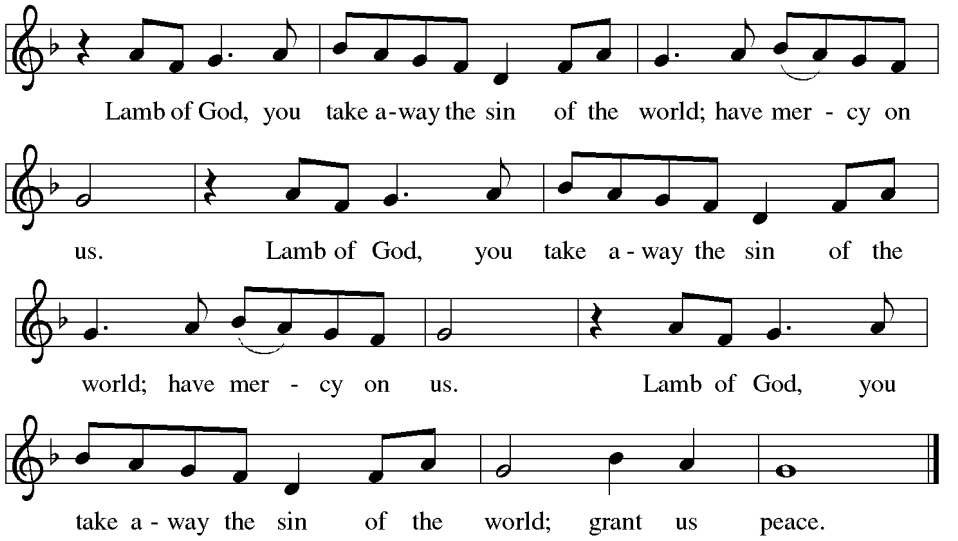
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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

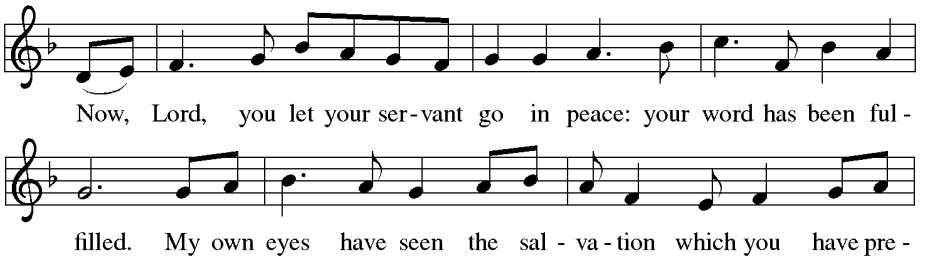
P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

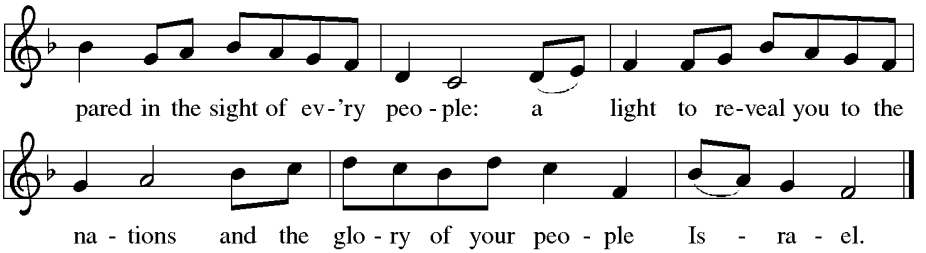
Communion Hymn: *"God, We Praise You for the Women"*

*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: *"Go to the World* *(ACS 991)*

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Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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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

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.....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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