ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sixth Sunday in Easter

May 25, 2025

Midweek Evening Prayer, Wednesdays 6PM

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 Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is 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

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination

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

Paschal Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Confession and forgiveness

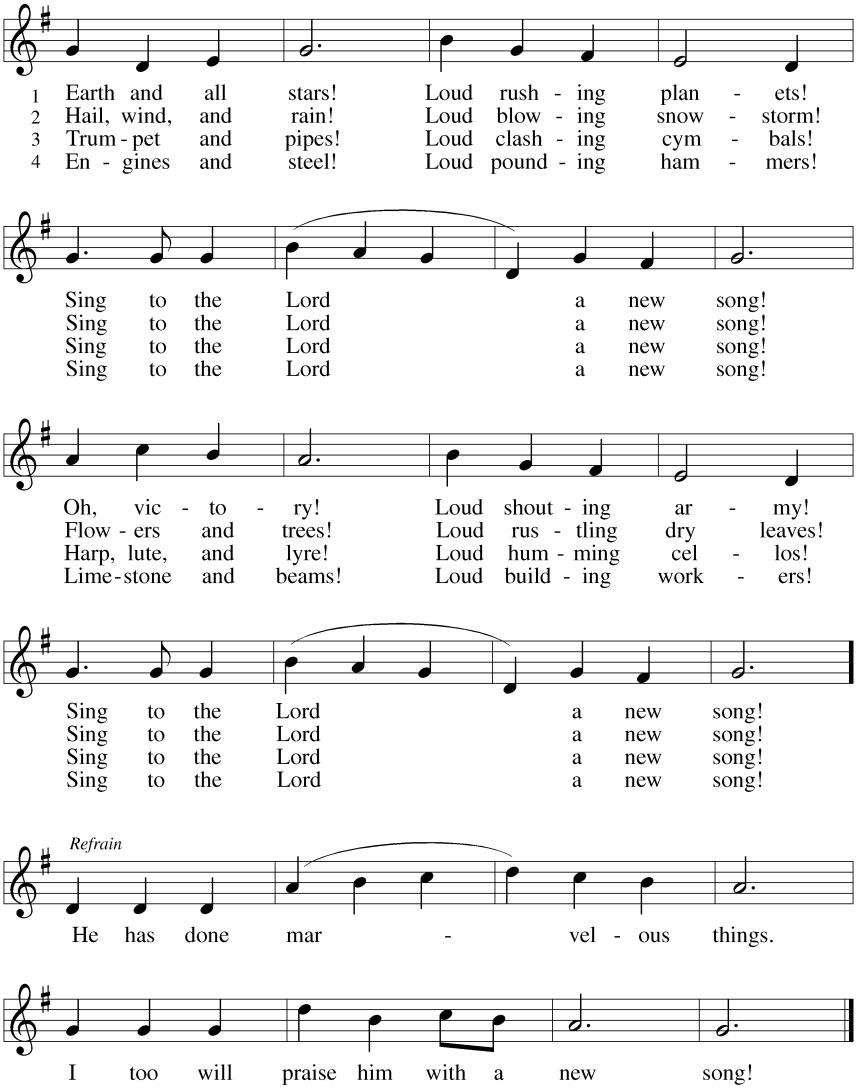
P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

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

P Most merciful God, **A: Most merciful God, 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 denied our need for daily new birth. We have scorned the means you provide to fertilize and cultivate our growth in grace. We have closed ourselves to pollination by others of your redeeming, particularly those whose fruits differ from ours. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, revive us, and open us to your gifts, 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 *"Earth and All Stars!"* *(LBW 558)*



5 Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band!
Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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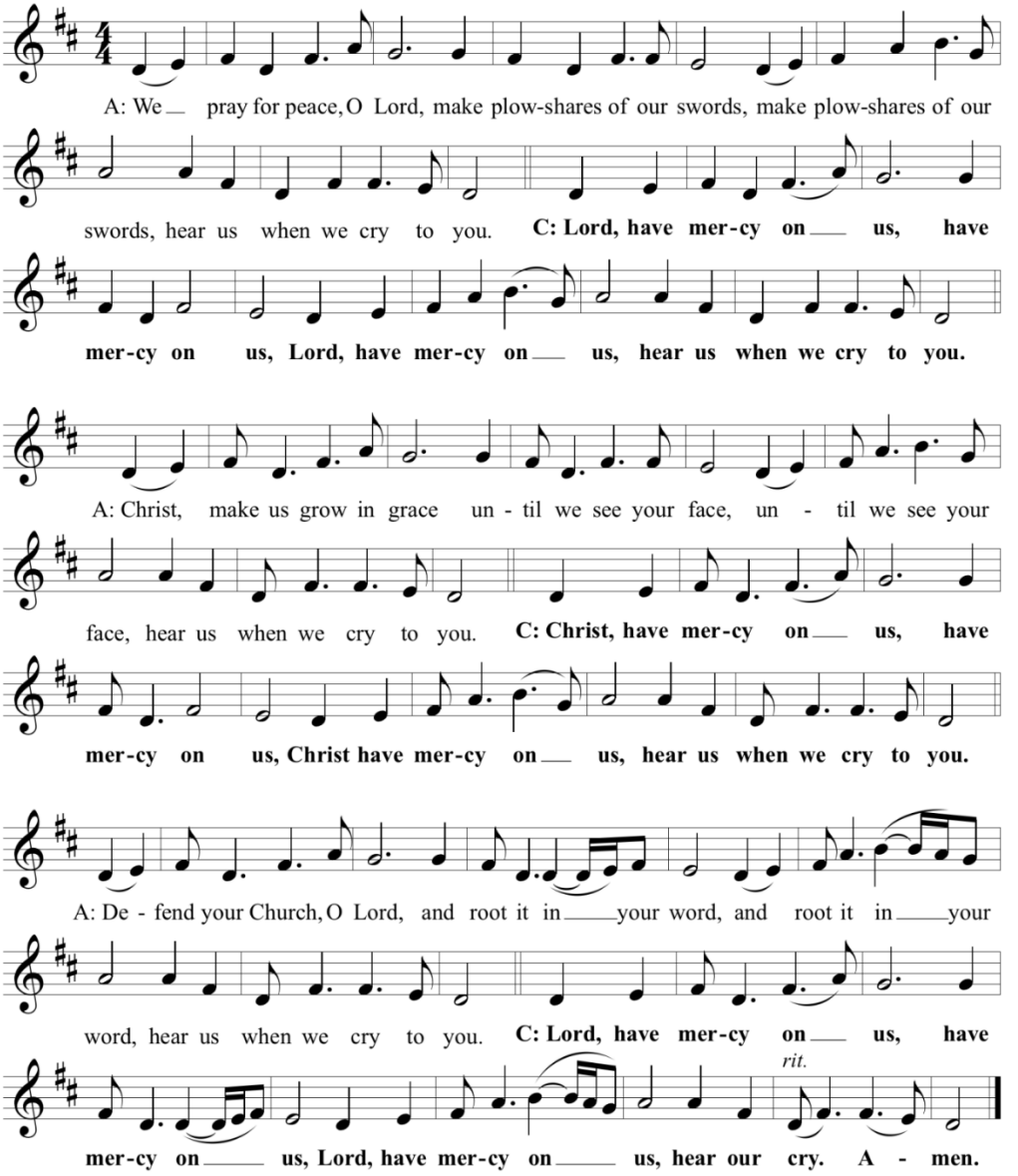
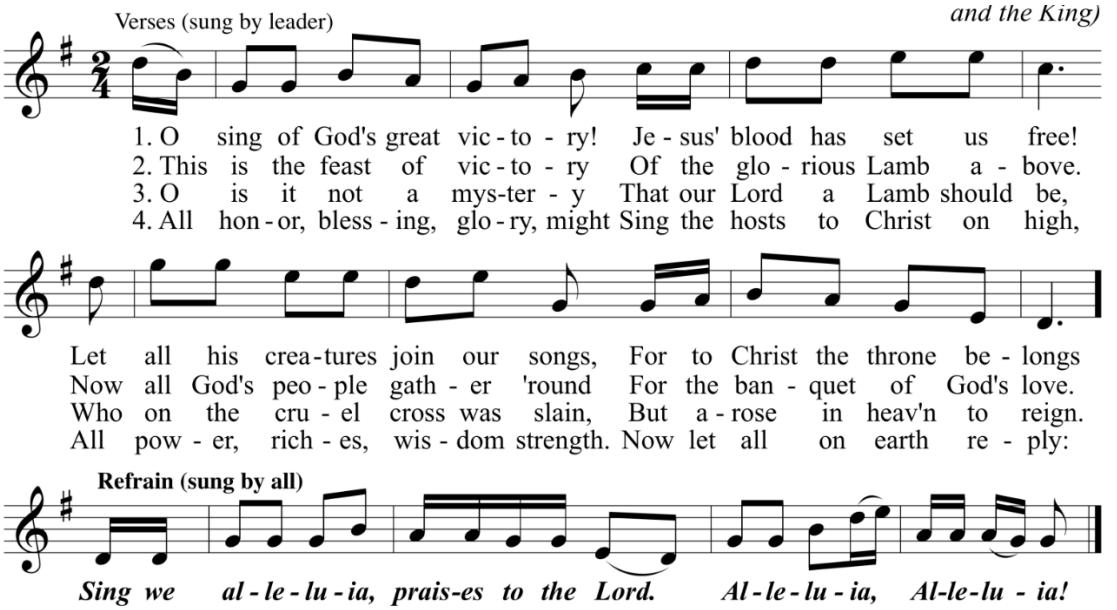
*GREETING

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

*Canticle Of Praise: *O Sing of God's Great Victory!*



*Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray. Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

The first reading is usually chosen to relate in some way to the day's Gospel reading. Here the death of Moses did not leave the Israelites without comfort or without a leader, since Joshua guided them into their new life in the Promised Land. While there are obvious differences, Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit provides the church with both comfort and guidance.

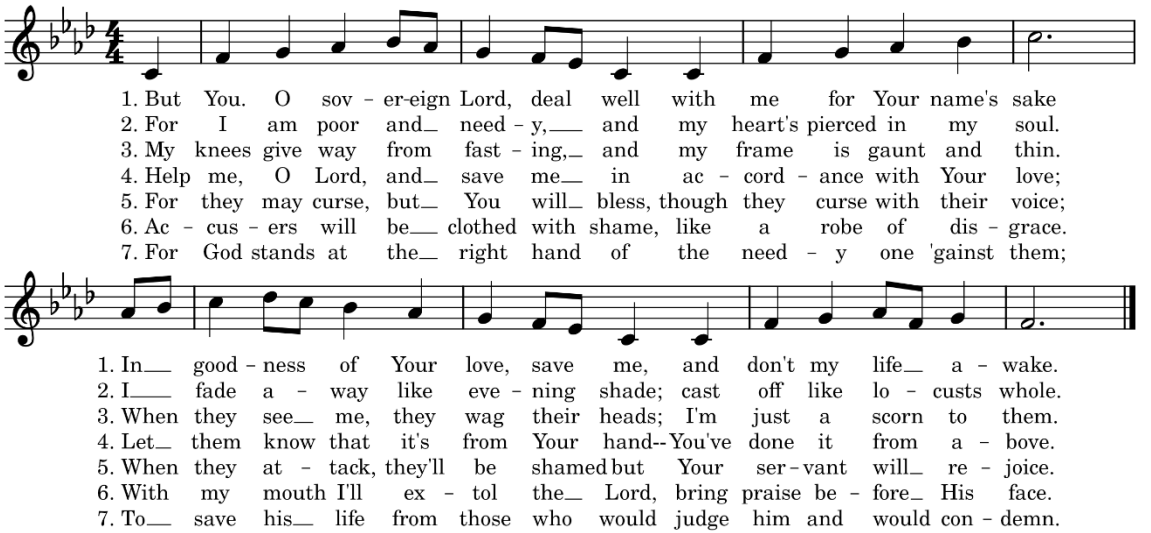
[1]Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, [2]all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, [3]the Negeb, and the Plain — that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm

trees — as far as Zoar. [4]The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to
Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you
see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." [5]Then Moses, the servant of the
LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. [6]He was buried in a
valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this
day. [7]Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired
and his vigor had not abated. [8]The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty
days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.
[9]Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on
him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.
[10]Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face
to face. [11]He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to
perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire
land, [12]and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses
performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

Psalm 24:1-6

(sung to the tune Consolation)

This may be heard as the cry of Moses, prevented by death from entering Canaan. But it is also be our cry of lament and hope in the midst of suffering and trials.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John's vision is coming to an end with a vision of the peace God establishes for creation. Humanity is not taken to heaven, but earth is renewed as an eternal city – not Rome, but the New Jerusalem.

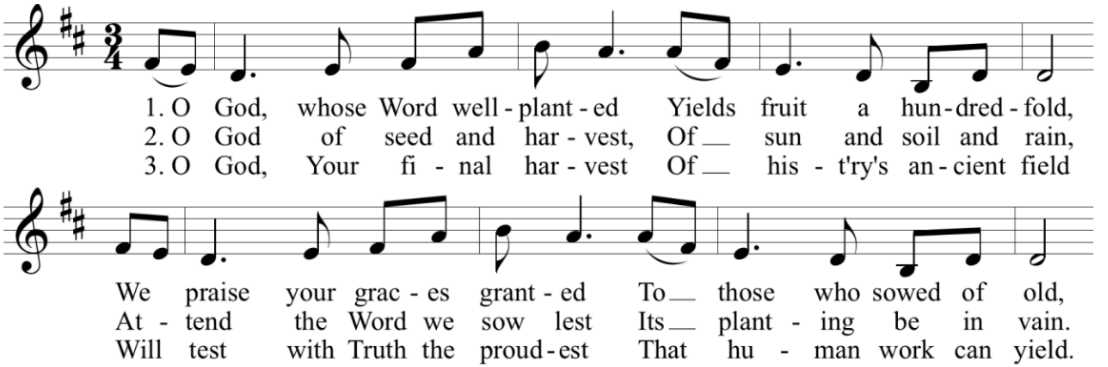
10 And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

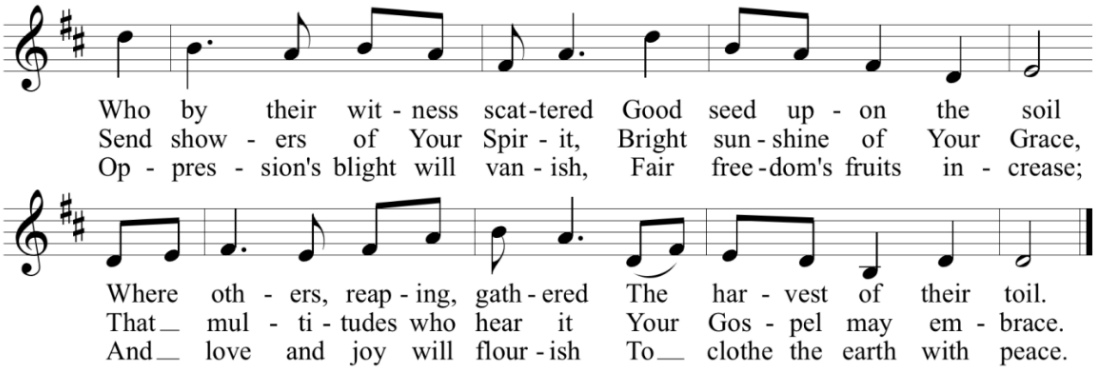
22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.22:

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

*Gospel Acclamation





*Gospel Reading: John 14:23-29

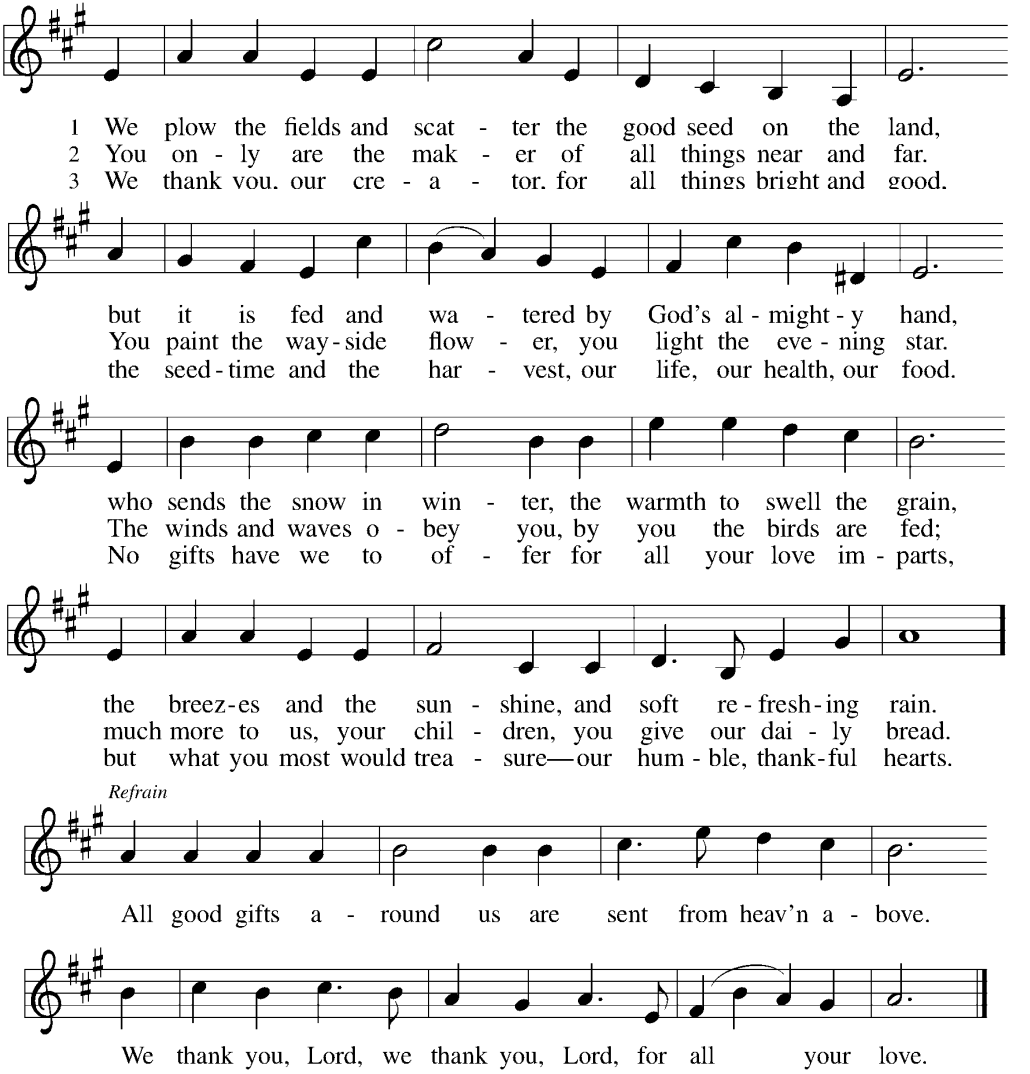
After washing their feet on the night before his betrayal, Jesus has a final opportunity to teach his disciples. This passage, called the Final Discourse, prepares them for his resurrected appearance on Easter evening, when he gives them both peace and the Holy Spirit.

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

23 Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot)], "Those who love me will keep my word, and my
Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with
them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you
hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the
Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind
you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not
give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them
be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you
loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater
than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you
may believe." P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"* (ELW 681)

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*ROGATION BLESSING

Prayer for Seeds (hold seed aloft)

Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Prayer for the Soil (hold soil aloft)
Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord, **A: Amen.**

Prayer for Water and Rain (hold water aloft)
Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. **A: Amen.**

Most gracious God, according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and clouds drop gentle moisture. We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for the fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of the crops, and for all other blessings that you in your generosity pour out on all people. Bless the endeavors of farmers, of the farmer's market, and of our congregation as we support it and prepare for its opening day. Nurture all who are involved so that our lives may show respect and care for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

*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: Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors especially the governing members of Interfaith Human Services, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ especially Genevieve Barger and Ed Magnuson. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. 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

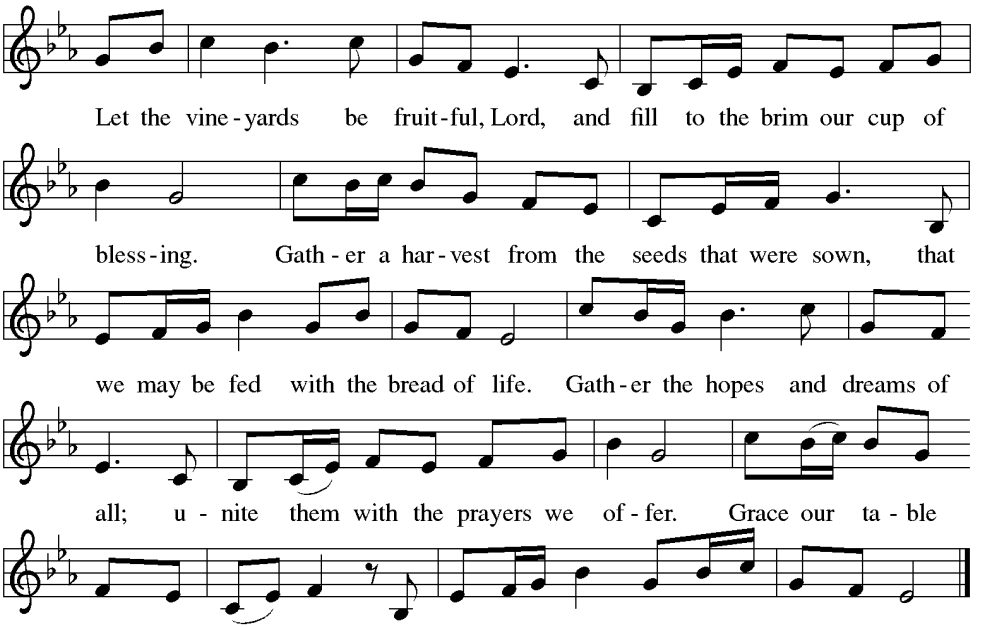
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

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



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

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*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Gracious God, You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

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

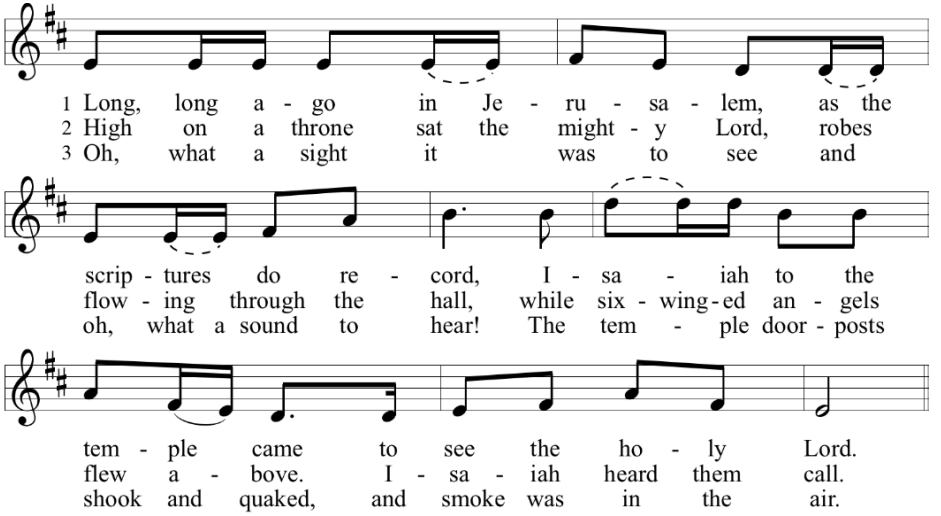
P: Lift up your hearts. **A: We lift them to the Lord.**

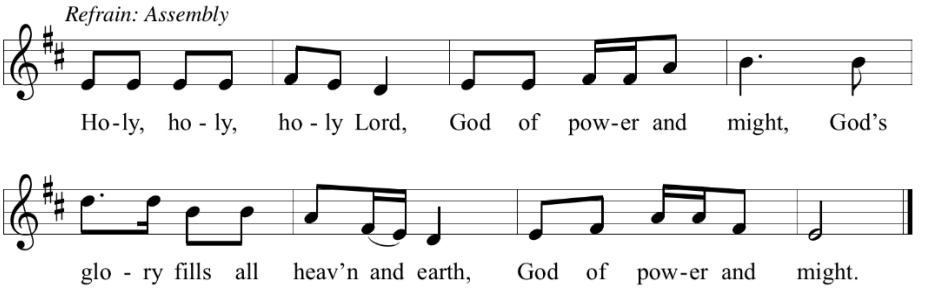
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*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. In the Son you sent us the Living Bread from heaven. By the Spirit you plant your Word among us, filling the world with the promise of new life in your holy name. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.

*SANCTUS (Sung by all)





*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God.
At the springtime of the world, you planted light and life;
you made Israel to be your vineyard,
guarding and training it
through wandering and exile, prosperity and faithfulness,
to bear your Word for the nations.
After prophets and poets had proclaimed that Word,
you chose a flower of the garden to bear it as her fruit;
you made your Word to be enfleshed as Jesus, your Son,
who brought life to a weary 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.
We remember, therefore,
his prodigal planting of your Word by his teaching,
his abundant giving of your food and health by his miracles,
his gracious offering of your forgiveness by his welcome.
We proclaim the passage of his last Passover,
when for our sake he passed through death into life,
and sealed with the Spirit our own place as his companions.
Send that Spirit upon this meal,

that again we may pass through death into eternal life.
By your Spirit, unite us with all whom you have called into your light,
and strengthen us for service in the light of your love, as the body of your Son,
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God,
with your Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
A: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

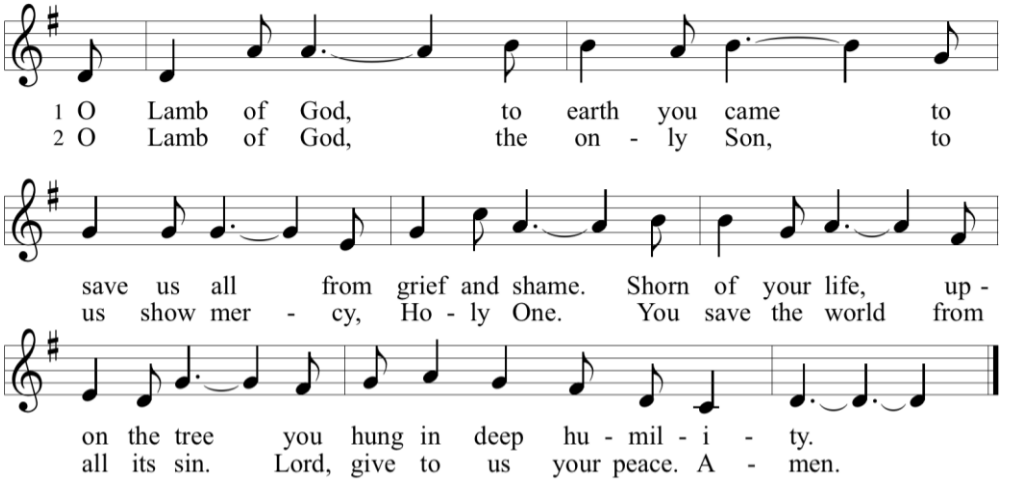
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

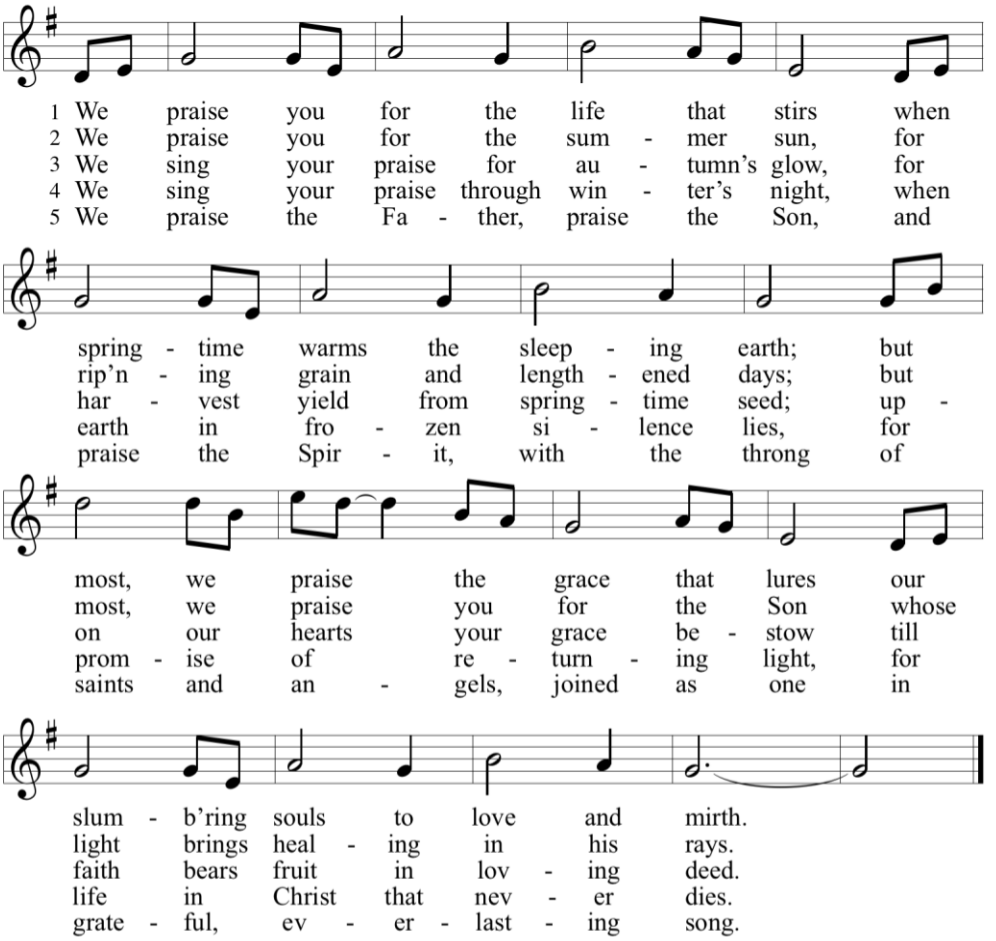
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.
A: Amen.

*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 Praise You for the Life That Stirs"* *(OLS 9)*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.
Music: Prospect, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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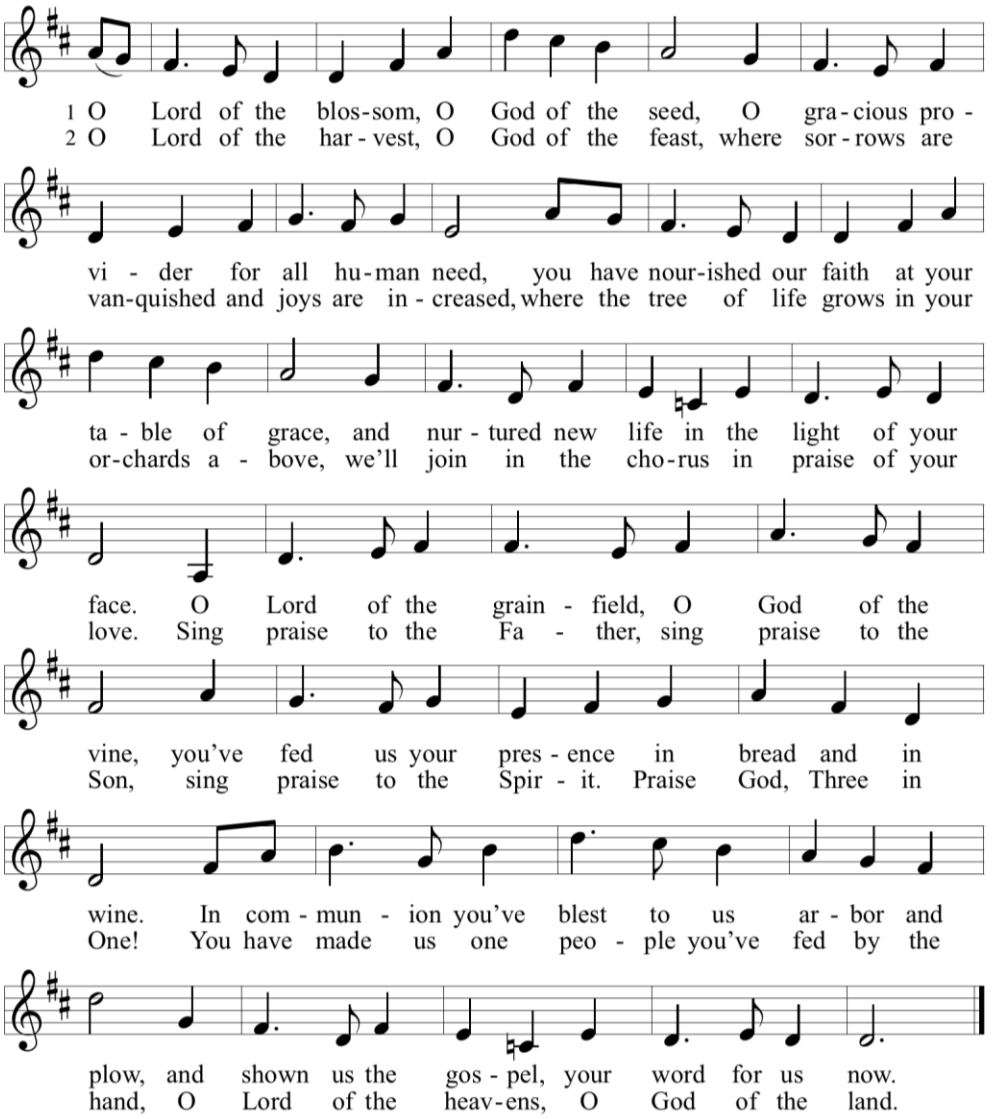
*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life**. A: Amen.**

*Post-Communion Canticle – *O Lord of the blossom*

*Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Sending

*Sending of communion

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Announcements

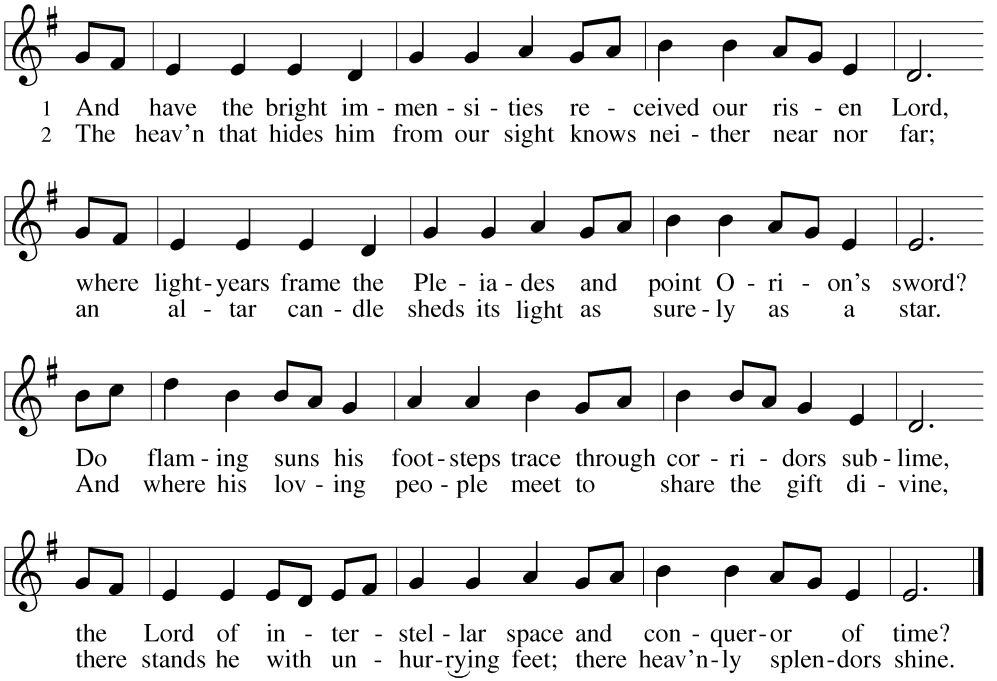
You may be seated.

*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: *"And Have the Bright Immensities"* *(LBW 391)*



Text: Howard C. Robbins, 1876–1952
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

*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

Celebration/Commemoration for James B. Rearick

James (Jim) Rearick began taking piano lessons at the very early age of 11. By age 13, he then started to take organ lessons from Stella Boyer and his cousin Roger Boop (who was only 15 himself at the time). This all led to a passion for music that continues for Jim to this day. Jim also came from a family who regularly attended the St. Johns Union Church in Farmers Mills, PA. It was at St. Johns that Jim began playing organ for the first time in January of 1964 at the age of 15. His deep dedication to both music and faith has guided him on a lifelong journey of organ playing for over 60 years. During those 60 years, Jim has played for six different churches with his present church being St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pine Grove Mills, PA. His family and friends are organizing a celebration of his dedication to music, faith, and life to be held on June 14th at 11:00 am at St. Johns Church in Farmers Mills, PA. Following the celebration, there will be a potluck lunch in the basement social hall at Farmers Mills from noon to 1PM. We're hoping to see family and friends from all the churches where Jim has dedicated his time and talent. Unfortunately, Jim has been battling stage IV pancreatic cancer for the last six months. His cancer diagnosis is what has prompted us to show Jim how much he has been appreciated and loved for all he has done during these 60 years of music and faith. We hope that you might find the time to attend this gathering. If you can attend, please RSVP (text or call) to his sister (Amy Bowersox) at 814-777-5888 or to his daughter (Michelle Snare) at 814-954-0089.

We hope to see you at the celebration. Thank You.

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, May 25
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67 (4)
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29
John 5:1-9 {alternate}

Monday, May 26
1 Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14
Psalm 93

Tuesday, May 27
2 Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22
Psalm 93

Wednesday, May 28
2 Chronicles 34:20-33
Luke 2:25-38
Psalm 93

Thursday, May 29
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (5)
Psalm 93 (2) {alternate}
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 30
Exodus 33:12-17
Revelation 22:6-9
Psalm 97

Saturday, May 31
Exodus 33:18-23
John 1:14-18
Psalm 97

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

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
Reader.....Ann Reede

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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