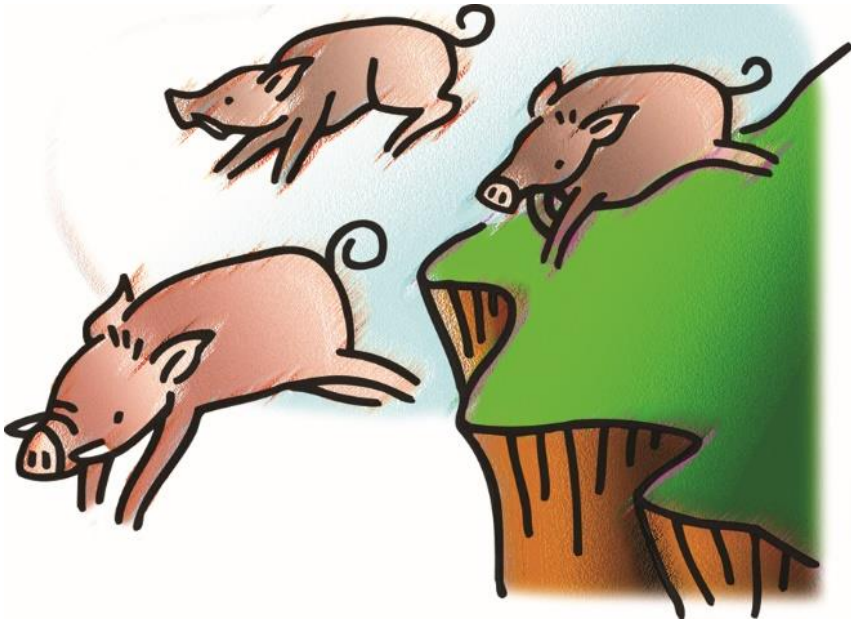




ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 22, 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.

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

"This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

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

L: Most merciful God, **A: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

(ELW 843)



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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*GREETING

L: 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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15A

For the next several weeks we will be reading the stories of the great prophets, Elijah and Elisha. In a contest, Elijah has defeated the priests of Baal and overseen their massacre at the hands of a crowd. He flees for his life to the cave in Sinai where God had appeared to Moses, and receives his own theophany and command.

¹ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." [⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."] ⁸ He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake

a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ^{15a} Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

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

PSALM 42-43

(sung to the tune All Saints New)

While many versions of the Bible separate these two psalms, they form a single poem with a shared refrain. The theme of trusting in God, and the reference to God's "holy hill" make this poem a fitting response to the first reading.



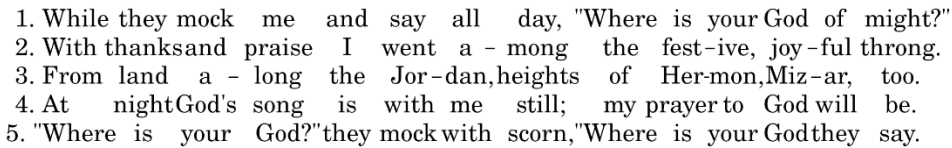
1. As the deer pants for wa - ter clear, so my soul thirsts for You;
2. These things I do re - mem - ber well, as I pour out my soul;
3. Why are you so down - cast, my soul? Why so dis - turbed in me?
4. Deep calls to deep with - in the roar of Your great wa - ter - falls;
5. I say to God my Rock, "O why have You for - got - ten me?"



1. My soul thirsts for the liv - ing God, when can I meet with You?
2. How I went with the mul - ti - tude in - to the house of God.
3. Put hope in God; I'll praise God yet; my Sav - ior God is He!
4. Your waves and break - ers swept o'er me; the flood - ed with - out pause.
5. Why must I mourn all day op - pressed by the vile en - e - my?"



1. My tears have been my food all day, and al - so through the
2. I led the great pro - ces - sion with a shout of joy and
3. My soul is down - cast with - in me, so I re - mem - ber
4. By day the Lord di - rects God's love, God's stead - fast love to
5. My bones do suf - fer mor - tal pain; my foes taunt me all

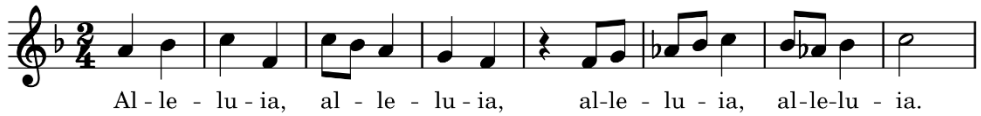


- ## SECOND READING: GALATIANS 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

7

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 8:26-39

After spending Lent and Easter primarily listening to readings from the Gospel of John, we return to Luke for the rest of the year, picking up where we left off in Epiphany. Immediately before this reading, Jesus has saved the disciples' lives by stilling a storm which had threatened to capsize their boat on the Sea of Galilee. The Gerasenes, who lived on the eastern side of the Jordan River, were ethnically and culturally Greek, rather than Jewish.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the eighth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶Those who had

seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN SING

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet, the Montana Synod of the ELCA and the Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Christians in our community, Pine Grove Presbyterian, Fairbrook United Methodist, Pine Hall Lutheran, Gatesburg Lutheran and St. Alban's Anglican church. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence (*areas in crises may be named*). When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick (*especially*). Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. We especially remember James Rearick, Shay Keller and Ruth Kolesar. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

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

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

*OFFERTORY: *"Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"*

(ELW 721)



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;
light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949
Text © 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.
Music © 1996 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
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*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **A: Amen.**

*CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING: "O Savior, Precious Savior"

(ELW 820)



1 O Sav - ior, pre-cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
 2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous-ly hast wrought,
 3 In thee all full-ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
 thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
 the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
 in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
 then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais-es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
 and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

L: Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, **A: We thank you, O God.**

L: You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, **A: We praise you, O God.**

L: Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, **A: We entreat you, O God.**

L: Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **A: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

L: 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.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*BLESSING

L: 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: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

(ELW 656)



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, June 22

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28 (22)
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Thursday, June 26

Leviticus 9:22—10:11
2 Corinthians 13:5-10
Psalm 16

Monday, June 23

Job 18:1-21
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Psalm 64

Friday, June 27

2 Kings 1:1-16
Galatians 4:8-20
Psalm 16

Tuesday, June 24

Job 19:1-22
Ephesians 2:11-22
Psalm 64

Saturday, June 28

Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43
Luke 9:21-27
Psalm 16

Wednesday, June 25

Ezekiel 32:1-10
Luke 9:37-43a
Psalm 64



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Morgen Hummel
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

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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