



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES **JUNE 29, 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

Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.

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 "Gather Us In"

(ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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. Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 12:1-11

Both Peter and Paul were imprisoned repeatedly for their preaching of the Gospel, and Acts relates the miraculous rescues of each from that bondage.

¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am

sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

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

PSALM 87

(sung to the tune Hymn of Joy)

Both Peter and Paul proclaimed the Gospel not only to Jews but to Gentiles. Their proclamation was the fulfilment of the promise with which this psalm ends: no one is an alien to God's city.



1. God has set God's own foun - da - tion on the ho - ly mount of God.
2. "I name Ba - by - lon and Ra - hab, Tyre and Cush, Phil - is - ta, too;
3. Then the Lord will write with - in the reg - is - try of peo - ples all:

1. The Lord loves the gates of Zi - on more than Ja - cob's vast a-bodes.
2. I will say of them, 'In Zi - on, these were born not just a few!'"
3. "This one here was born in Zi - on where God's peo - ple on God call."

1. Glor - ious things of you are— spo - ken, Zi - on— ci - ty of our God!
2. For of Zi - on it is— said that "This one,— that one, here were born,
3. Then all those who do make mus - ic, they will— sing with joy - ful tune,

1. "I will men - tion all who know Me, who ack - now - ledge me as God:
2. And the Lord Most High Him - self will her es - tab - lish like themorn.
3. "All the springs of joy a - bun - dant; all my foun - tains are in You!

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 17-18

In the first century it was common practice for others to write what major figures might have said. While Paul probably did not write 2 Timothy, this passage is true to his experience of incarceration and to his dedication to the universality of God's love in Christ Jesus.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluias

This Jesus God raised up and of that all of us are witnesses.

*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 21:15-19

John's Gospel ends with this appearance of the resurrected Jesus to Peter. The apostle's three-fold affirmation of love echoes his threefold denial of Jesus the night before the crucifixion. Christ lets him know that (like Paul) he will die a martyr's death.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the twenty-first chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

(ELW 324)



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

***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. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion's mouth, rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict (*especially*), and bring justice to each community. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick (*especially*). Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. Especially James Rearick, Bertha Reish, Carole Wills, and Blanche Jones. 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.**

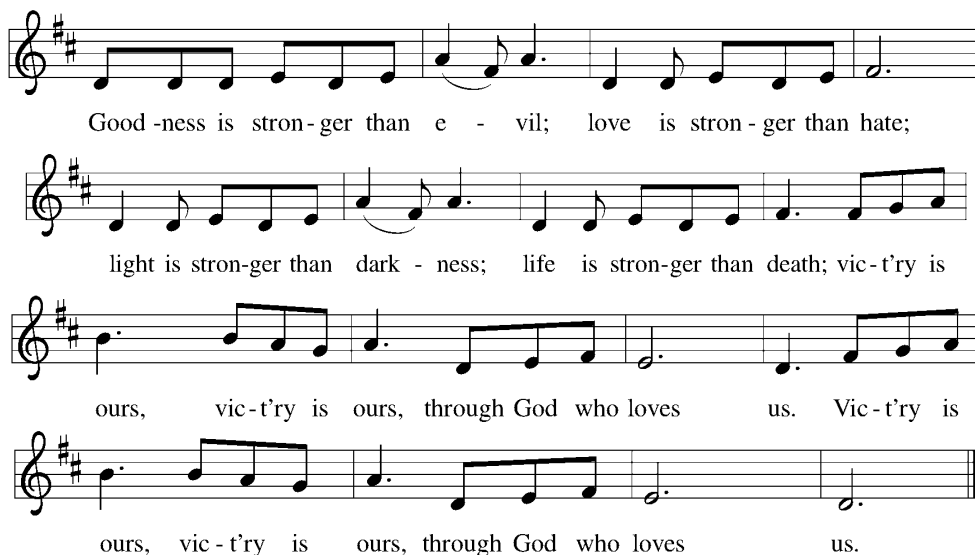
MEAL

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

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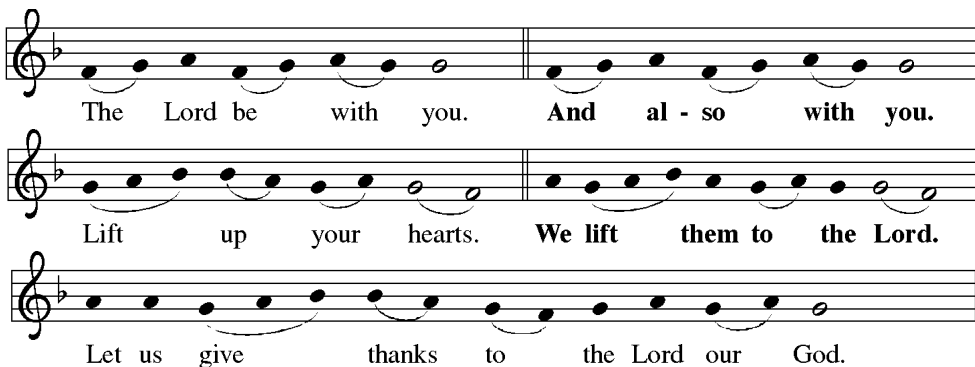
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*OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



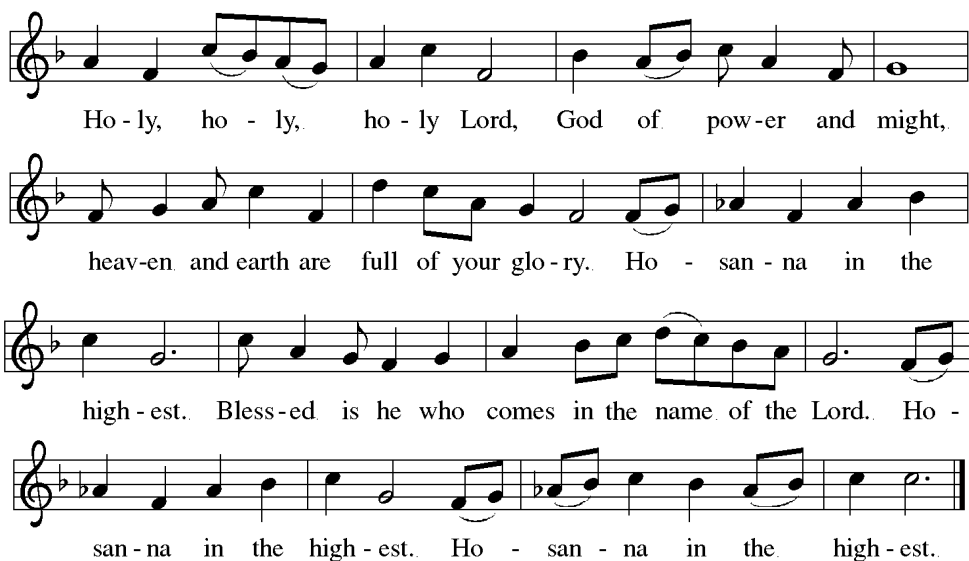
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



*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. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with Peter, Paul, and all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, Mighty, and Merciful God,
 in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,
 the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
 When Sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills
 and to form us again into one.

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.

With Peter, Paul, and all our saints we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing,
his body given up, and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

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:

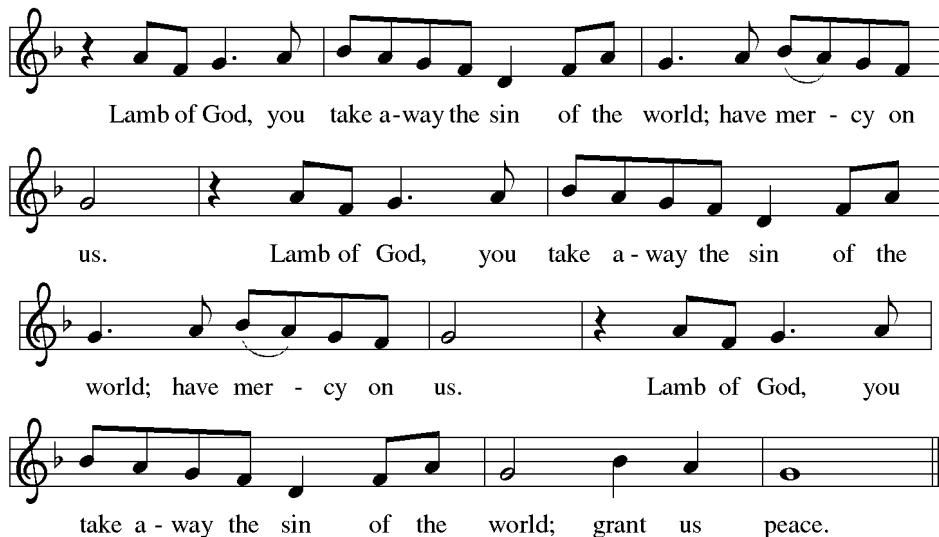
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "In the Garden"

1. I come to the gar den a lone While the dew is still on the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His Voice, Is so sweet the birds hush their
3. I stay in the gar den with Him Though the night a - round me be

ros - es And the voice I hear fall - ing on my ear The Son of God dis clos - es.
sing - ing, And the mel - o - dy that He gave to me With in my heart is ring - ing.
fall - ing, But He bids me go; through the Voice of woe His Voice to me is call - ing.

Refrain

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own; And the

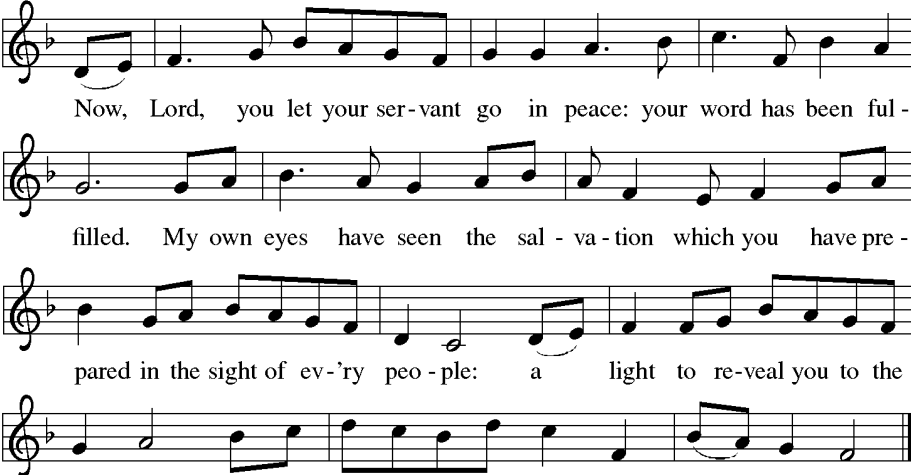
joy we share as we tar - ry there, None o - ther has ev - er known.

Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnalm

*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 – *Nunc Dimittis* (Now, Lord)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: 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.

*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: "Lift High the Cross"

(ELW 660)



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, June 29

Acts 12:1-11
Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7 (3)
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
John 21:15-19

Thursday, July 3

2 Kings 21:1-15
Romans 7:14-25
Psalm 66:1-9

Monday, June 30

Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67
1 John 2:7-11
Psalm 140

Friday, July 4

Jeremiah 51:47-58
2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Psalm 66:1-9

Tuesday, July 1

Jeremiah 3:15-18
Ephesians 5:6-20
Psalm 140

Saturday, July 5

Zechariah 14:10-21
Luke 9:1-6
Psalm 66:1-9

Wednesday, July 2

Jeremiah 23:16-22
Matthew 10:16-25
Psalm 140



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader..... Sister Marianne Brock
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Tingle
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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