



ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS**

OCTOBER 5, 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 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

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

P Most merciful God, **A: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

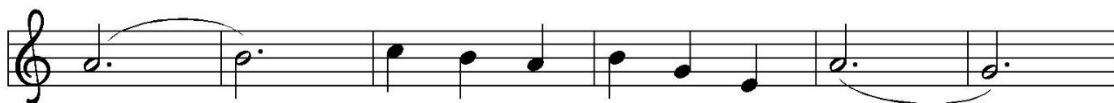
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN " God of the Sparrow"

(ELW 740)



1	God of the spar - row	God of the whale	God of the swirl - ing
2	God of the earth - quake	God of the storm	God of the trum - pet
3	God of the rain - bow	God of the cross	God of the emp - ty
4	God of the hun - gry	God of the sick	God of the prod - i -



stars	How does the crea - ture say	Awe
blast	How does the crea - ture cry	Woe
grave	How does the crea - ture say	Grace
gal	How does the crea - ture say	Care



How does the crea - ture say	Praise
How does the crea - ture cry	Save
How does the crea - ture say	Thanks
How does the crea - ture say	Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

"Text: Timothy J. Vogel, b. 1919.
 Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929.
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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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: LAMENTATIONS 1:1-6

Because Luke often presents Jesus as carrying on the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, our first readings during these weeks is from several of those figures, now from Jeremiah. The Book of Lamentations expresses Jeremiah's grief over Jerusalem, sacked and conquered by the Babylonians.

¹ How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become subject to forced labor.

² She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers,
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her;
they have become her enemies.

³ Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations;
she finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate;
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,
and her lot is bitter.

⁵ Her foes have become the masters;
her enemies prosper
because the LORD has made her suffer
for the multitude of her transgressions;

her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

⁶ From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.

Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

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

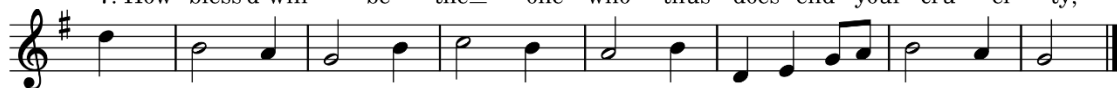
PSALM 137

(sung to the tune Martyrdom ELW 337)

This psalm was written to express the grief of the defeated residents of Jerusalem, now in exile in Babylon. The last verse seems vindictive, but these singers have just seen their own children massacred in this way by the Babylonians, and understandably wish that their oppressors would suffer in a like manner.



1. By ri - vers of cruel Ba - by - lon, there we sat down and wept;
2. Up - on the trees we_ hung our harps, for they de - man - ded song;
3. How can we sing songs of the Lord while in a for - eign land?
4. May my tongue cleave to_ my mouth's roof if I do not re - call;
5. Re - mem - ber, Lord, all_ Ed - om's sons who razed Je - ru - sa - lem;
6. O daugh - ter of doomed Ba - by - lon, your end will sure - ly come;
7. How bless'd will be the_ one who thus does end your cru - el - ty;



1. When we re - mem - bered Zi - on's land our home we'll not for - get.
2. Our cap - tors, with tri - um - phant scorn, said, "Sing songs of Zi - on.
3. If I for - get Je - ru - sa - lem let skill_ leave my right hand.
4. If I don't praise Je - ru - sa - lem, my chief joy_ a - bove all.
5. Who said "Tear down, tear down it's walls un - to_ its_ foun - da - tion.
6. How bless'd will be the one who pays to you_ as_ you have done.
7. Who takes your in - fants, dash - ing them up - on_ the rocks just - ly.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

Today we continue reading through the letters addressed to Timothy. It seems that Timothy, appointed to be the leader of the community, was worried that he was too young and inexperienced for his office. The author urges him to be diligent and courageous in opposing false teachers.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

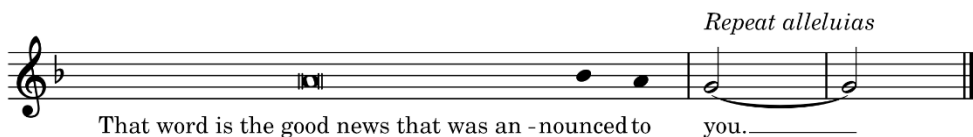
²To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 17:5-10

Jesus has just commanded his disciples both to confront believers who sin, but also to forgive them. The disciples apparently make the request which opens today's reading because their faith is insufficient to allow them to confront or forgive.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶ The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷ "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table?' ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink?' ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'

"L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS** *(Will occur during the singing of the hymn of the day. If you have pictures, have them pulled up and ready.)*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"*

(ELW 835)



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5. Sing, brothers fish who swim the seas,
 and whales, our brothers, deep with ease,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 sing, sister dolphin, bright with play, all
 praise the Lord of night and day.
 Alleluia!

8. Sing, sister cat with watchful eyes,
 sing, brother ox, so strong and wise,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 sing, sister lamb and brother hound,
 all bless the Lord whose gifts abound.
 Alleluia!

6. Sing, sister birds on lifted wing,
 who greet the dawn with songs you sing,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 sing, brother dove and falcon free,
 all praise the Lord eternally.
 Alleluia!

9. And you, most gentle sister death
 waiting to hush our final breath;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia!

7. Sing, brother stag and sister bear,
 and all wild kin who roam and dare,
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 sing, brother wolf with piercing call, all
 praise the Lord who made you all.
 Alleluia!

10. O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart;
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia!

*INVITATION TO BAPTISM

*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**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation

A brief silence.

L: O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence (*especially*). God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need (*especially*). Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith especially Francis of Assisi and Pauline Hommel. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

***OFFERTORY: "Take My Life, That I May Be" vs. 1&2**

(ELW 685)

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

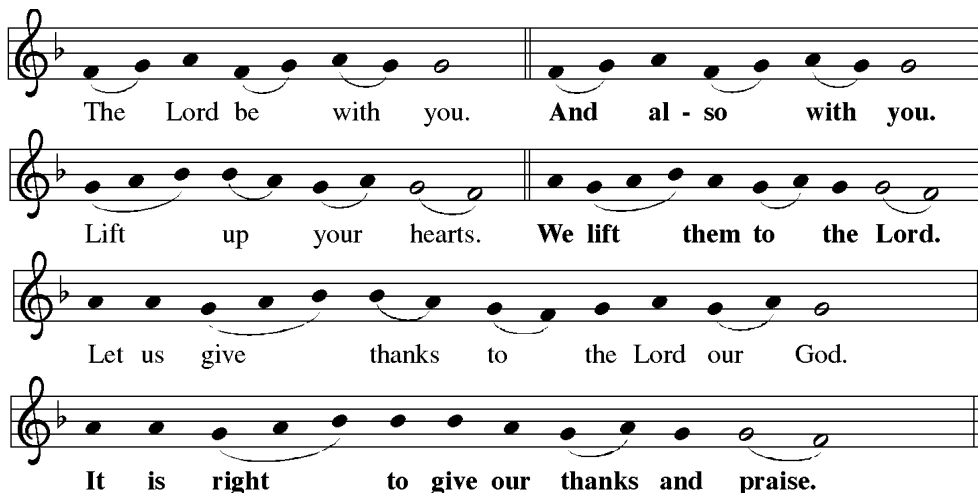
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the second measure. The third and fourth staves are continuous.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

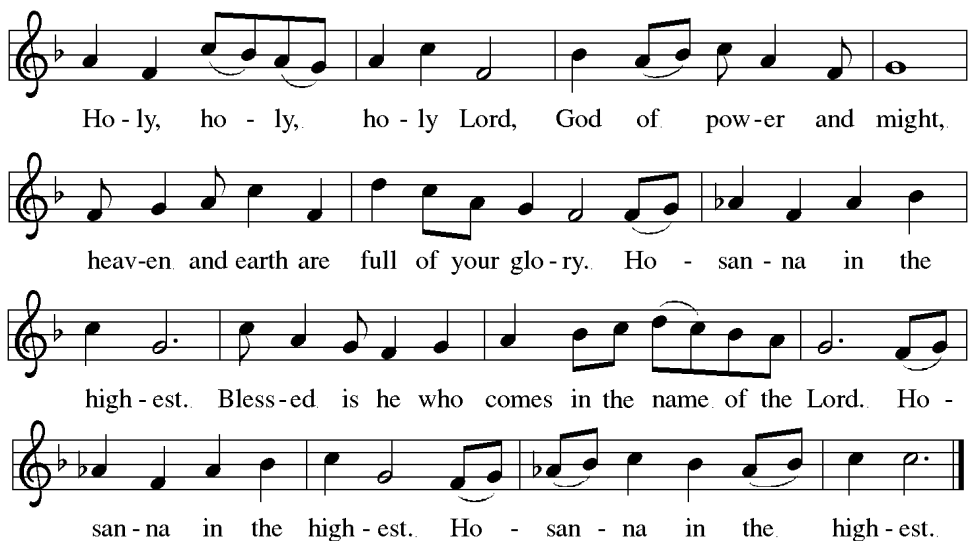
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food 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.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*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: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

(WOV 767)

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain



God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

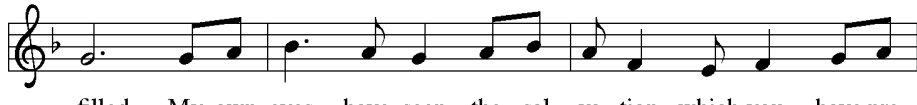
*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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**

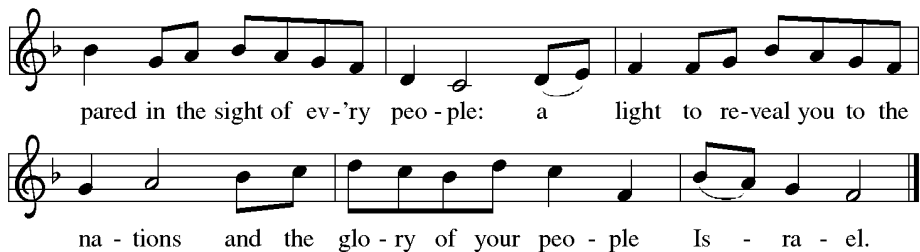
*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Nunc Dimittis* (Now, Lord)



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 -



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this 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.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*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: "Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

(ACS 1064)



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring-ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, October 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9 (5)
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Thursday, October 9

Leviticus 14:33-53
2 Timothy 1:13-18
Psalm 111

Monday, October 6

Habakkuk 1:5-17
James 1:2-11
Psalm 3

Friday, October 10

Numbers 4:34 —5:4
2 Timothy 2:1-7
Psalm 111

Tuesday, October 7

Habakkuk 2:5-11
1 John 5:1-5, 13-21
Psalm 3

Saturday, October 11

Numbers 12:1-15
Luke 5:12-16
Psalm 111

Wednesday, October 8

Habakkuk 2:12-20
Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
Psalm 3



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Eleanor Bird
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Nate Clinard

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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