



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

PRELUDE: *Jig Fugue*

(Dietrich Buxtehude)

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **A: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

A: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. 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: "Let My Spirit Always Sing"

(ACS 1020)



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
gage my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020

Music: SPIRITSONG, Jane Marshall, 1924–2019

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Music © 2005 Jane Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray, Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The end of Deuteronomy is Moses's farewell address to Israel. They will enter the Promised Land, but he will die before crossing with them. No doubt the tribes were troubled about the time to come, since Moses had been the intermediary between them and God, and they faced a future without the Word of God.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

PSALM III

(Sung to the tune Winchester Old LBW 264)

This psalm is the song of a faithful prophet, one who recognizes and proclaims the work of God both in the past and in the present.



All praise I'll give with all my heart, bring thanks to God and sing.



Come gather all you up right ones, De-light the LORD is King!

Enjoy the great works of the LORD; Fail not to see, adore.
Great and majestic are His deeds; His righteousness endures.

In all my mem'ry He has placed Just acts and wondrous deeds.
Know that the LORD's compassionate; Love and kind grace is He.

Mercy He gives to those who fear, No food they lack or need.
O He remembers covenant, Provides eternally.

Quickly He shows His mighty power; Rewards with gifts of land.
Shows us His just and faithful works; Trustworthy, His law stands.

Upright and steadfast are His ways; Vibrant in faithfulness.
Well has He saved His cov'nant ones— eXtol His holiness!

You will find wisdom when you seek the fear of God the LORD.
Zealously follow His commands—praise to Him evermore!

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

For most of the season of Epiphany, we'll be reading almost continuously through Paul's letter to the Corinthians. At that place and time, the only meat which was available for most people was that distributed from the temples of the gods, left overs from the sacrifices. For some Christians, eating this meat implied that they were participating in those sacrifices. Other Christians were so strong in believing that those gods did not exist that they could freely enjoy the meat.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by

your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The people who sat in darkness have seen | a great light;*
for those who sat in the shadow of death | light has dawned.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:21-28

The word "Epiphany" means the obvious appearance of a god to rescue, relieve and heal. The readings of this season, from the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, describe the authority and wonderworking of Jesus, in teaching, healing, freeing, and calling.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

(ELW 886)



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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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**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives we especially remember Bob Kidwell and Thomas Aquinas whom the greater Church commemorates today. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **A: Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Pleading Savior"

(Raymond H. Haan)

*OFFERTORY: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (verse 2)

(ELW 314)



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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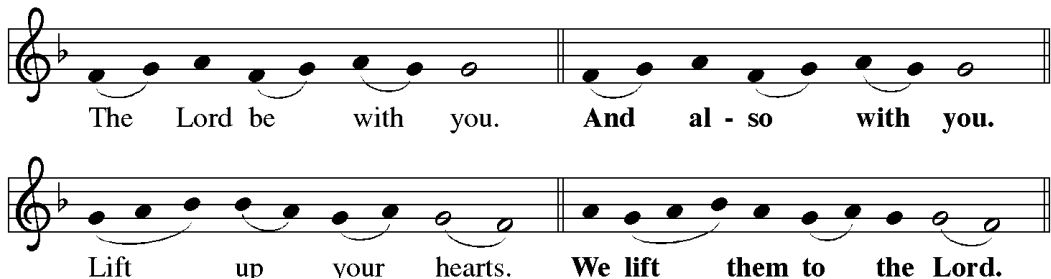
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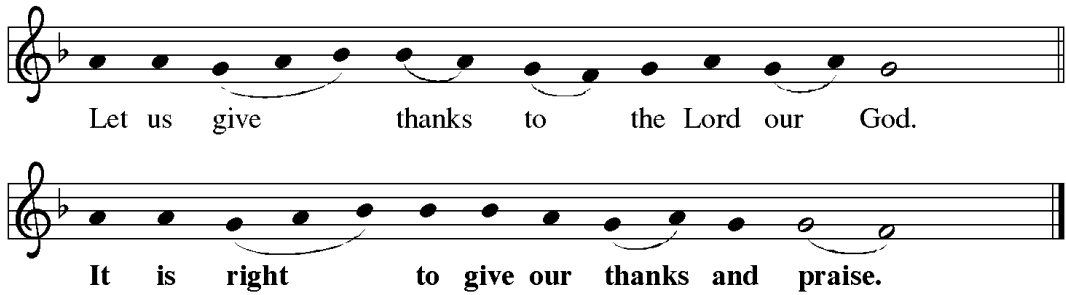
*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

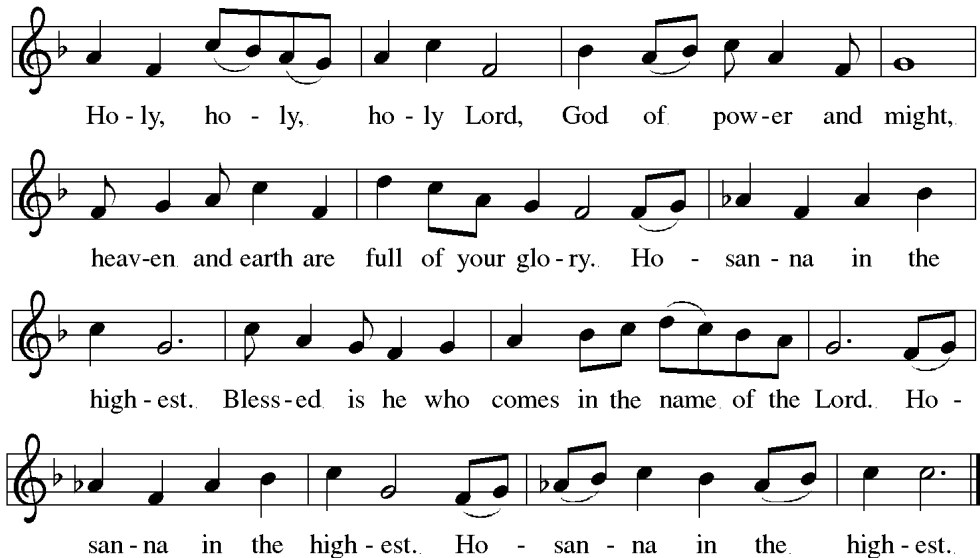




*PREFACE

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 leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

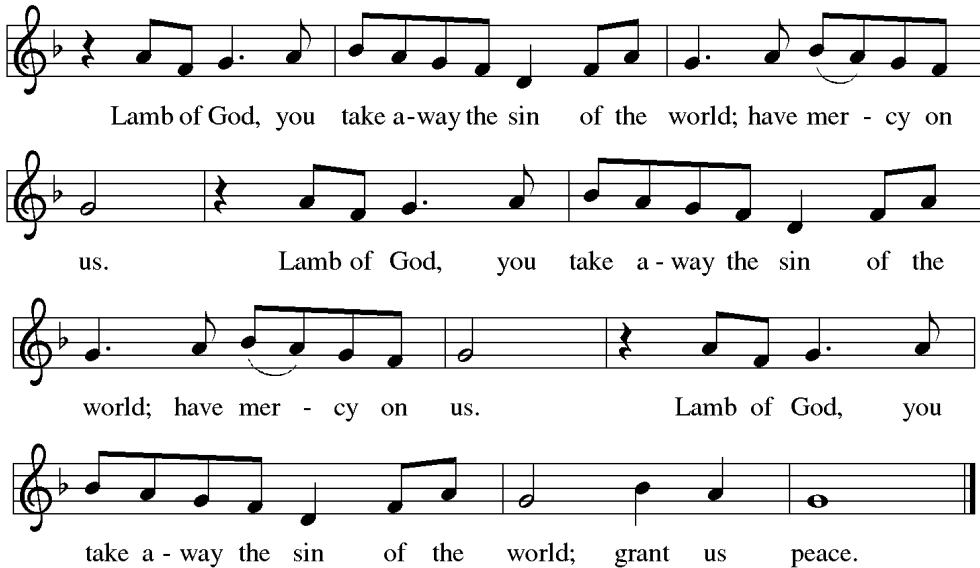
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

*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. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

(ELW 610)



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Thankful Hearts*



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

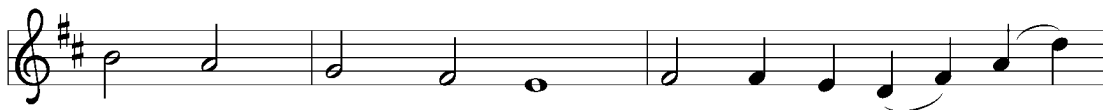
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "Jesus Shall Reign"

(ELW 434)



1	Je - sus shall reign	wher - e'er	the sun	does its suc -
2	To him shall end - less	prayer	be made,	and prais - es
3	Peo - ple and realms	of ev - 'ry	tongue	dwell on his
4	Bless - ings a - bound	wher - e'er	he reigns:	the pris - 'ners
5	Let ev - 'ry crea - ture	rise	and bring	pe - cu - liar



ces - sive	jour - neys	run;	his king - dom	stretch	from
throng to	crown	his head;	his name	like sweet	per -
love with	sweet - est	song;	and in - fant	voic - es	
leap to	lose their	chains,	the wea - ry	find	e -
hon - ors	to our	king;	an - gels	de - scend	with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Toccata in E Minor"

(Johann Pachelbel)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Monday

Psalms 35:1-10

Numbers 22:1-21

Acts 21:17-26

Tuesday

Psalms 35:1-10

Numbers 22:22-28

1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wednesday

Psalms 35:1-10

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Mark 5:1-20

Thursday

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

Proverbs 12:10-21

Galatians 5:2-15

Friday Feb. 2: Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms 84 or Psalms 24:7-10

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

Saturday

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

Isaiah 46:1-13

Matthew 12:9-14

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

A LISTENING SESSION INVITATION

At the 2022 Allegheny Synod Assembly, we forwarded a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly which resulted in the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) being formed. The CRLC has been meeting and working toward outcomes outlined in the memorial. Namely:

- reconsider the statements of purpose for each of expression (congregation, synod, churchwide) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- the principles of our organizational structure, and
- all other matters pertaining thereunto,

Now, they want to hear from you! The Allegheny Synod has scheduled a Listening Session on Tuesday, January 30. There are two times scheduled: 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Listening Session will be held via Zoom and the link will be sent to anyone who registers. This is free and open to any member of the Allegheny Synod (any member of our congregation is a member of the synod).

Register by going to this link: <http://tinyurl.com/8CListening-CRLC>



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan..... Ann Reede
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, 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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