



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: 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: *“I Bind unto Myself Today”*

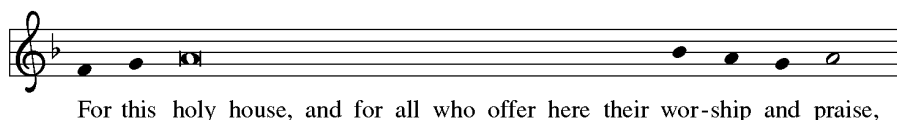
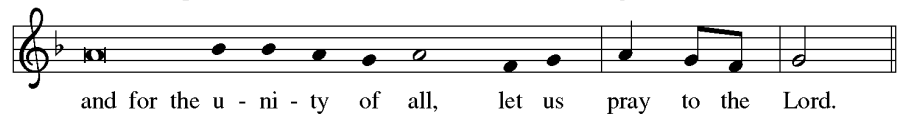
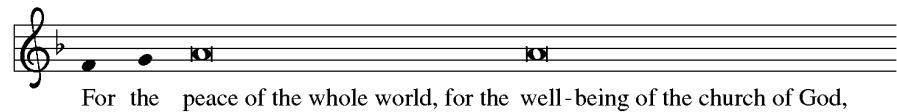
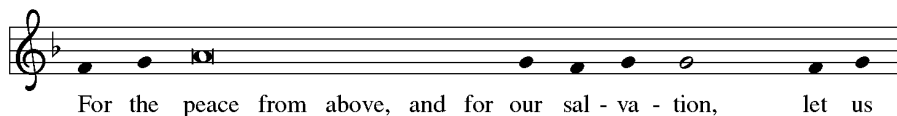
(ELW 450)

USE RED HYMNALS

*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



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

P: Let us pray, O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The first readings for Lent this year focus on the succession of covenants God has made. This final one is a promised covenant. While Jeremiah is best known as a prophet of disaster, this reading comes after the disaster (military defeat, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the exile of Israelites to Babylon), when it would have made sense to despair.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 51

This psalm, traditionally associated with David's repentance after his murderous adultery with Bathsheba, is also a prayer for the renewed relationship promised in the First Reading.



1. O faith-ful God, have mer-cy on your ser-vant here;
2. I know my deeds, I know my faults and fail-ings well;
3. You long for truth, for wis-dom dwell-ing deep with-in;



in your love, re-mem-ber not my sins. In the
I have sinned and bro-ken faith with you. For the
teach my heart to long for wis-dom, too: Wash me



wa-ters of your grace, wash me clean of all dis-grace;
wrong that I have done, my trans-gres-sions, ev-'ry one,
clean and give me voice, so these bones you crushed re-joice;



raise me up to life from death and fear.
God your judg-ment would be just and true.
turn my heart from sin to life in you.



4. Cre-ate in me a clean and right-eous heart, O God, put a



will-ing spir-it in my soul. Let me sing with joy a-new the sal-



va-tion found in you, sing-ing praise to you who made me whole.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

Hebrews is written to a community which is complaining that their suffering did not disappear with their baptism. The author encourages them to persevere, with examples of the persistence of the saints and above all of Jesus. Melchizedek was a priest-king of the city which became Jerusalem who blessed Abraham (Genesis 14:17-20). The mysterious "order of Melchizedek," then, was a form of priesthood connected in some way to the Davidic king in Jerusalem, and in some way independent from the covenant with Abraham and Sarah.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 12:20-33

Because Lent points us toward Holy Week, the Gospel readings this year collect Jesus' predictions of his own suffering and death. In the earlier chapters of this Gospel, Jesus has denied that his hour had come. Now, when Gentiles first seek him out, the hour has come and he points forward to his crucifixion, speaking of it in ways which echo Moses' lifting up the bronze serpent in the wilderness (we heard this story and Jesus' other use of it last Sunday).

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Spirit, Open My Heart"

(ACS 1043)

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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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**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.
A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*). Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today, and the saints of our congregation who have gone before us, like Edna Harpster and Ada Mayes. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

*OFFERTORY: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

(ELW 188)

The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff continues: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff continues: "pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -". The fourth staff continues: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff concludes: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The piece ends with a double bar line.

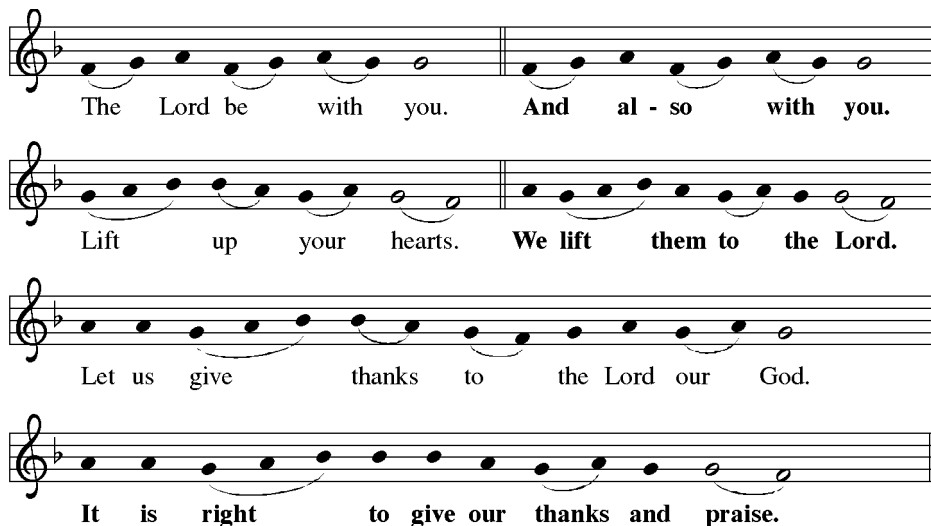
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **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, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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

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

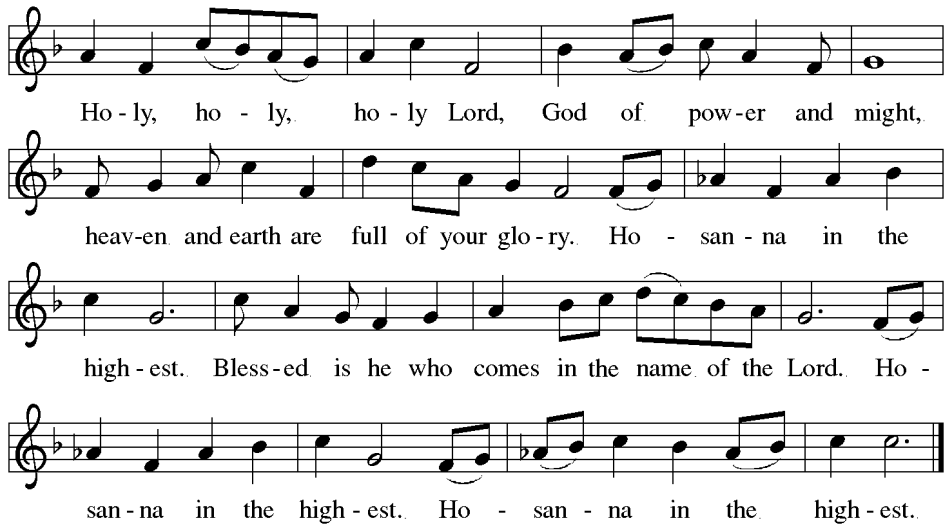
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life 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.

Through our remembrance we proclaim the mystery of our faith

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

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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:

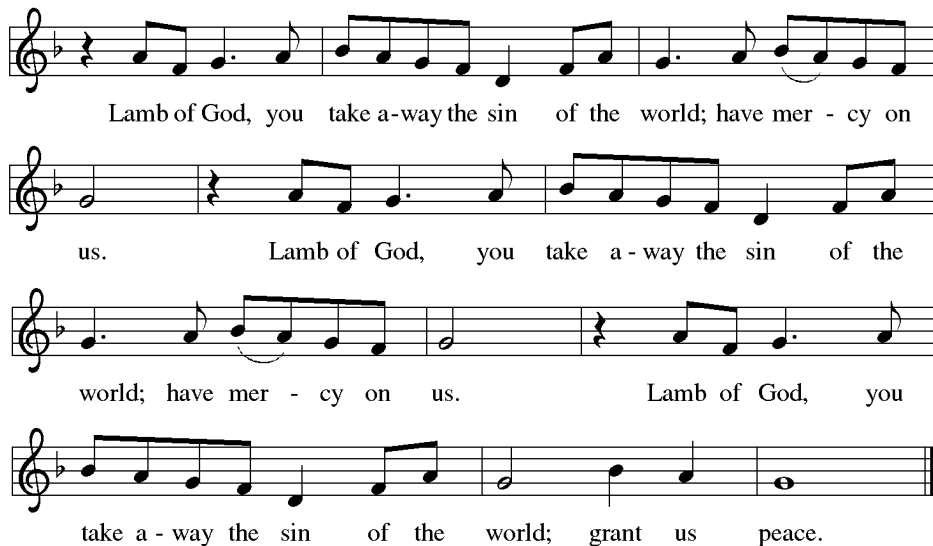
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*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: "Be Thou My Vision"

(ELW 793)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

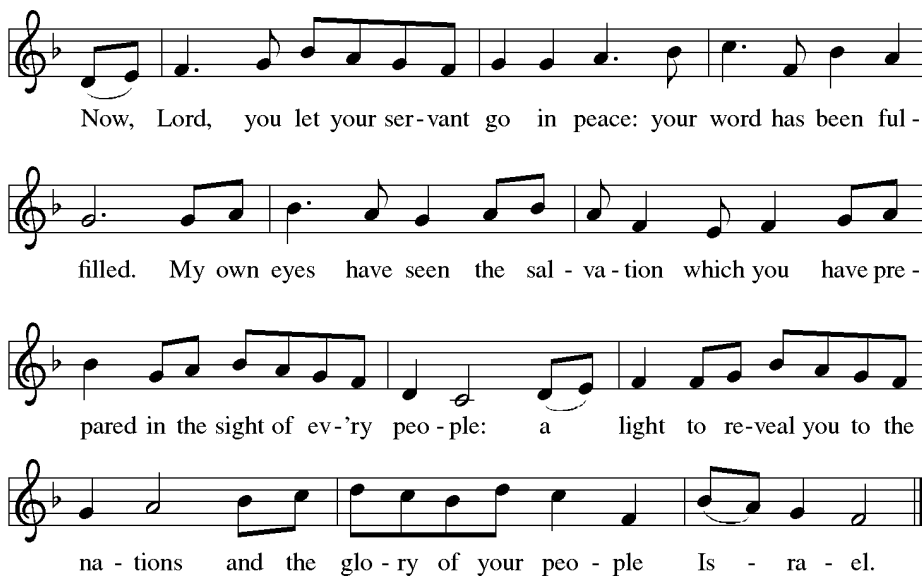


Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

*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



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **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: "Beautiful Things" (ACS 925)**

1) All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all. *Refrain*

Refrain:

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.

2) All this earth; could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground at all? *Refrain*

3) All around, hope is springing up from this old ground.
Out of chaos, life is being found in you. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share your bread. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR CHURCH!!

March 24: Palm and Passion Sunday

March 28: Commandment Thursday (Maundy Thursday) 7PM

March 29: God's Friday (Good Friday) 7PM

March 30: The Great Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM

March 31: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)

Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM?

Regular Service: 10AM

YOU'RE INVITED TO TELL THE ELCA WHAT YOU THINK OF IT

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was officially formed on January 1, 1988. It is now over 36 years since its formation and the world has changed in dramatic ways, but the core of our constitutional structures hasn't.

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the highest governing authority of the ELCA, a memorial was passed to create a commission to explore if we should have a reconstituting convention. From what has been disclosed by committee members, it is highly likely that this will happen and be recommended to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The commission will be presenting their report, and to help them write it they want to hear from members like yourself. Are there ways the ELCA has confused, frustrated, or perplexed you? Now is the time to make that known!

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/CRLC-elca-Survey> to give your thoughts and opinions.

RELATEDLY: If you would like to try to go the Phoenix, Arizona in 2025 to be part of the Churchwide Assembly, you can fill out this form to run for the chance:

<http://tinyurl.com/8c-2024-Nominations>



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 (10)
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Monday, March 18

Isaiah 43:8-13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Psalm 119:9-16

Tuesday, March 19

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16
Psalm 89:1-29 (2)
Romans 4:13-18
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Wednesday, March 20

Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
John 12:34-50
Psalm 119:9-16

Thursday, March 21

Deuteronomy 16:1-8
Philippians 2:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Friday, March 22

Jeremiah 33:1-9
Philippians 2:12-18
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Saturday, March 23

Jeremiah 33:10-16
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Linda Govere
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan
Reader.....Joy Kling

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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