



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.
You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

PRELUDE: *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

(Don Phillips)

GATHERING

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **A: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

P: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN *"God Is Here!"*

(ELW 526)



1	God	is	here!	As	we	your	peo - ple	meet	to	of	-	fer
2	Here	are	sym - bols	to	re -	mind	us	of	our	life	-	long
3	Here	our	chil - dren	find	a	wel - come	in	the	Shep -	herd's		
4	Lord	of	all, of	church	and	king - dom,	in	an	age	of		



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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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: Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

A: Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 31:10-31

For the past several months, our first readings have been telling the stories of Israel's early kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. Today's reading continues several weeks of listening to the wisdom traditionally collected from the sayings of Solomon. In last week's reading, Wisdom was personified as a woman, inviting and teaching those willing to learn her ways. This week's shows that her students are not only men.

- ¹⁰A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.
¹⁵She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls.
¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson.
²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land.
²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes.
²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her:
²⁹"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.
- L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 1

(sung to the tune Ode to Joy ELW 836)

Israel recognized the close connection between Wisdom and the Torah, the Instruction of God. That Instruction was experienced as a delight, most particularly in this psalm



1. Bless-ed is the one who does not walk with-in the wick-ed way,
2. They will be just like a tree that's plant-ed by the streams that flow;
3. Thus, the wick-ed will not stand when comes the fin-al Judg-ment Day;



1. Nor stand in the path of sin-ners, nor sit where the scof-fers stay.
2. Yield-ing fruit with - in its sea - son, leaves that ev - er health-y grow.
3. Nor will sin-ners join the gath'-ring of the right-eous in the Way.



1. But they take de - light in— foll'-wing what the Lord's law says is right,
2. In all things they do, they pros-per; but the wick-ed are not so;
3. For the Lord knows well and wat-ches o'er the way the right-eous own;



1. On that law they med - i - tate both in the day and in the night
2. They are like the use-less chaff that's cast a - way by winds that blow.
3. But the way the wick-ed choose will per-ish and be ov - er-thrown.

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8A

It is easy to set James, with its emphasis on works, against Paul, with his emphasis on the free grace of God, grasped by faith alone. But they share a deeper agreement that our relationship with God must bear fruit in loving action, or it is mere pretense. And they share a passion for the mutual support of the faithful, as a gift of God and a mark of salvation.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come

from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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.

God has called us through the proclamation of the good news,

that we may obtain the glory of our Lord, Je - sus Christ. *Repeat alleluias*

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 9:30-37

Jesus has been performing astounding miracles and teaching powerfully, and the inner circle of the disciples has witnessed his full glory in the Transfiguration on the mountain top, where the figures of Moses and Elijah appeared, speaking with him. But in the midst of these wonders, Jesus told his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified. Now, realizing how slow they were to believe that truth, he repeats it.

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

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

(ELW 781)



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, especially those of our congregation who have gone before us like Ruth Showers, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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: "When We are in Utmost Need"

(J. Wayne Kerr)

OFFERTORY: "God, Whose Farm Is All Creation (vs. 3)"

(ELW 734)

3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -
dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,
take, O God: they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, 1914-1991
Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954.
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Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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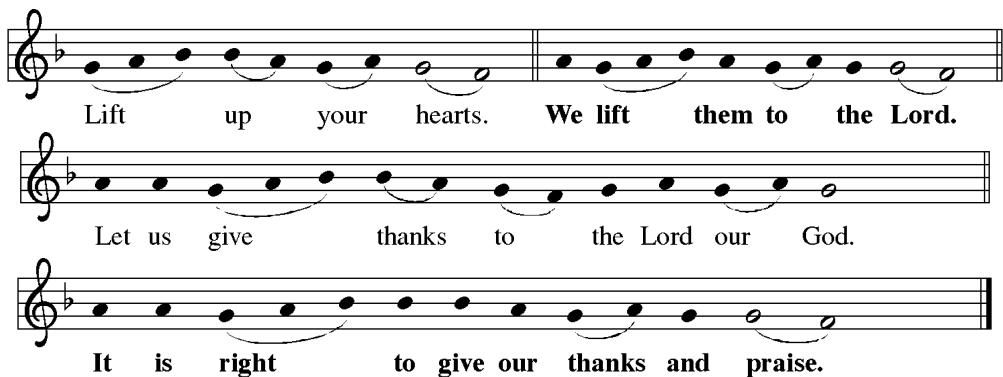
*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

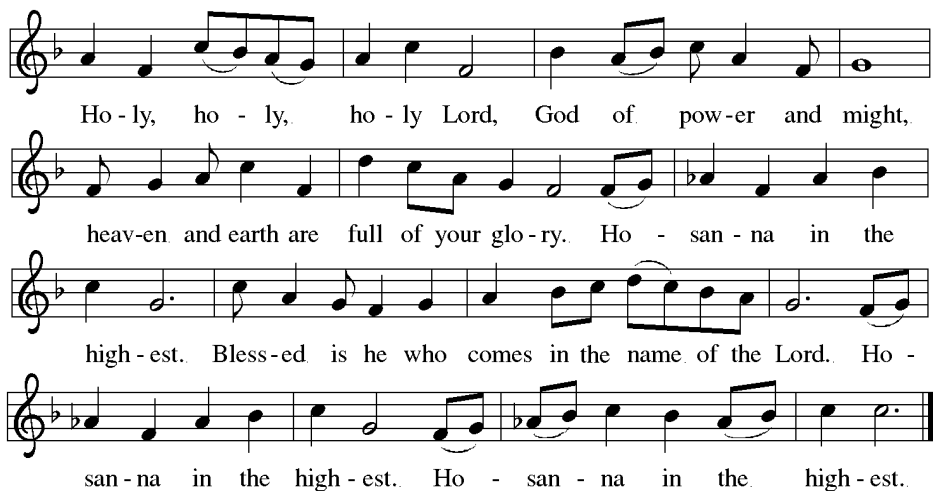
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



*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 L: heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



*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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has 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;

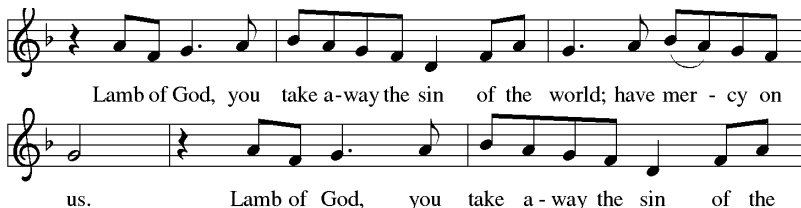
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Jesus Loves Me!"

(ELW 595)

- 1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
- 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
- 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

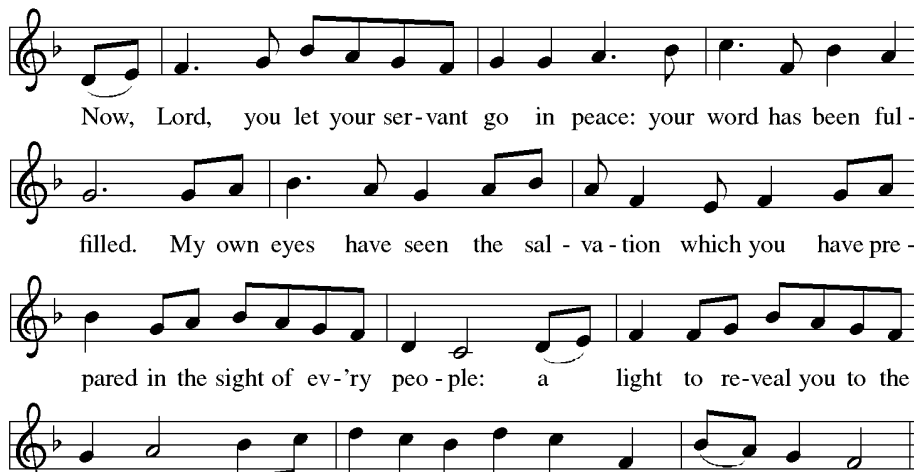
Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace. **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. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

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: "Built on a Rock"**

(ELW 652)



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.

Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

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***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Jesus Shall Reign"

(Lana Kelley)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 22

Complementary Series

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Wisdom 1:16 — 2:1, 12-22

Psalm 54 (4) James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Semi-continuous Series

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1 (3)

Monday, September 23

2 Kings 5:1-14

James 4:8-17

Psalm 139:1-18

Tuesday, September 24

2 Kings 11:21—12:16

James 5:1-6

Psalm 139:1-18

Wednesday, September 25

Jeremiah 1:4-10

John 8:21-38

Psalm 139:1-18

Thursday, September 26

Exodus 18:13-27

Acts 4:13-31

Psalm 19:7-14

Friday, September 27

Deuteronomy 1:1-18

Acts 12:20-25

Psalm 19:7-14

Saturday, September 28

Deuteronomy 27:1-10

Matthew 5:13-20

Psalm 19:7-14



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Art Reede
Musician..... James Rearick
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan
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, 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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