



ST PAUL

PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

PRELUDE: "The Day of Resurrection "

(Jason D. Payne)

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Let us pray: 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: Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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 "The Lord's My Shepherd"

(ELW 778)



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

*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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 10

Zechariah preached after the Judeans had returned from their exile in Babylon, and while the Temple was being rebuilt, While the tribes of Israel were still scattered and poorly led, Zechariah promises that God will gather and lead them.

Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain,
 from the Lord who makes the storm-clouds, who gives showers of rain to you,
 the vegetation in the field to everyone:

² For the teraphim utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies;
 the dreamers tell false dreams, and give empty consolation.
 Therefore the people wander like sheep; they suffer for lack of a shepherd.

³ My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders;
 for the Lord of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah,
 and will make them like his proud warhorse.

⁴ Out of them shall come the cornerstone, out of them the tent-peg,
 out of them the battle-bow, out of them every commander:

⁵ Together they shall be like warriors in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets;
 they shall fight, for the Lord is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.

⁶ I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph.
 I will bring them back because I have compassion on them,
 and they shall be as though I had not rejected them;
 for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.

⁷ Then the people of Ephraim shall become like warriors,
 and their hearts shall be glad as with wine.
 Their children shall see it and rejoice, their hearts shall exult in the Lord.

⁸ I will signal for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them,
 and they shall be as numerous as they were before.

⁹ Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me,
 and they shall rear their children and return.

¹⁰ I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria;
 I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, until there is no room for them.

¹¹ They shall pass through the sea of distress,
 and the waves of the sea shall be struck down, and all the depths of the Nile dried up.
 The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.

¹² I will make them strong in the Lord, and they shall walk in his name,
 says the Lord.

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

PSALM: 23 "Shepherd Me, O God"

(ELW 780)

While the psalm normally serves as a response to the First Reading, this Sunday's actually relates to the Gospel reading's Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Refrain
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
 lead me by path-ways of rig - teous-ness and truth, my
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

During the Easter season this year, we will be reading from John's letters to his community. While today's readings includes many of John's favorite themes (mutual love, abiding in Christ), it begins with a connection to the Gospel reading, with Jesus, like a good shepherd, "laying down his life" for his followers.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

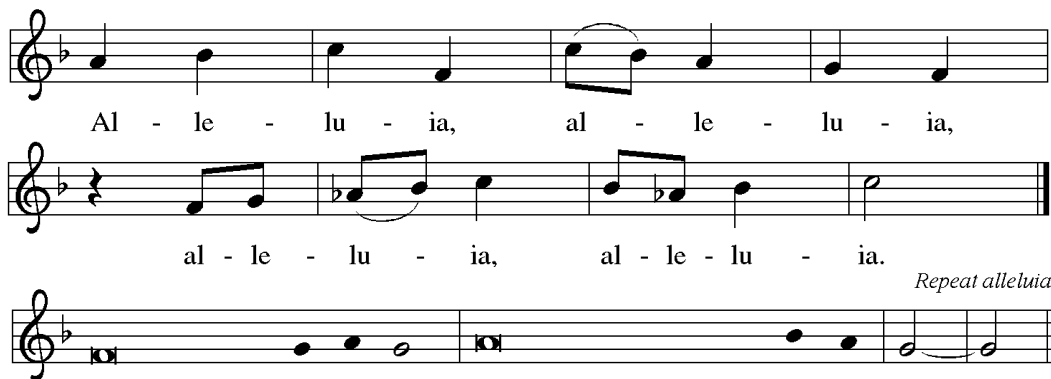
¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will

know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus says, I am ¹the good shepherd.*

I know my own and my ¹own know me.

*GOSPEL READING – JOHN 10:11-18

For well over a thousand years, the Gospel reading for this Sunday has been Jesus claim and assurance that he is a Good Shepherd, protecting his flock even at the cost of his own life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

SERMON

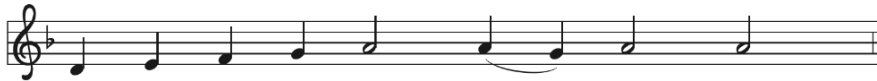
*HYMN OF THE DAY: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" (ACS 954)



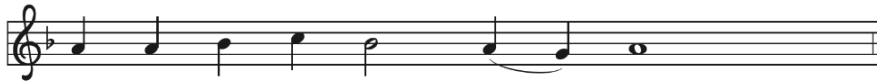
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



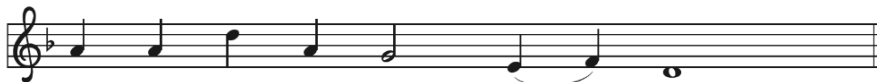
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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***INVITATION TO BAPTISM**

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

L: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel and the saints of our congregation who have gone before us like Louise Henry and Ruby Newman.

Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING

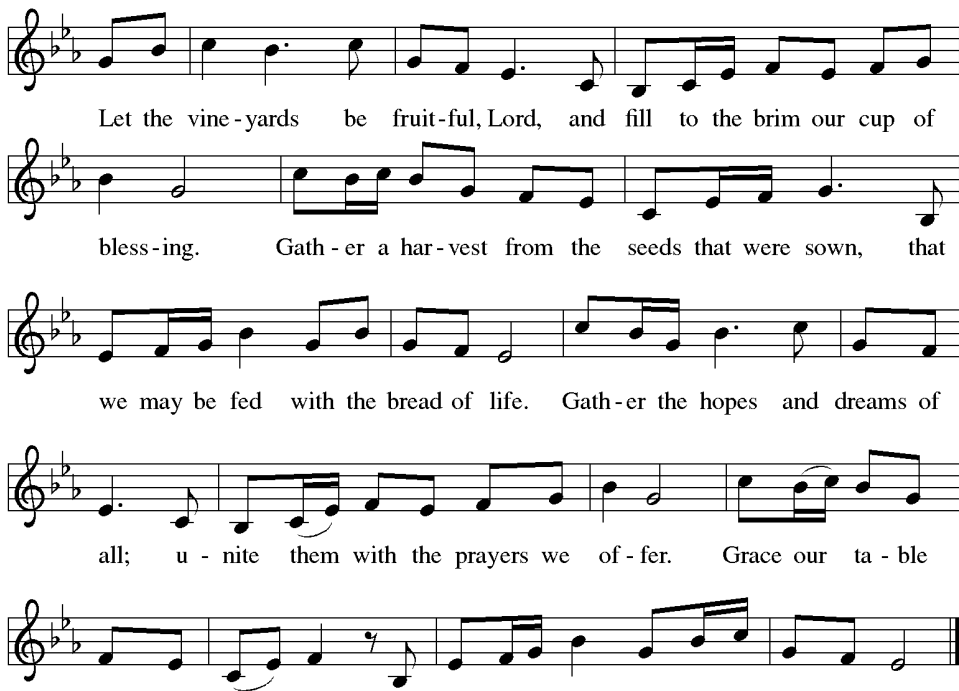
Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "This Joyful Eastertide"

(Paul Bouman)

OFFERTORY – “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

(ELW 184)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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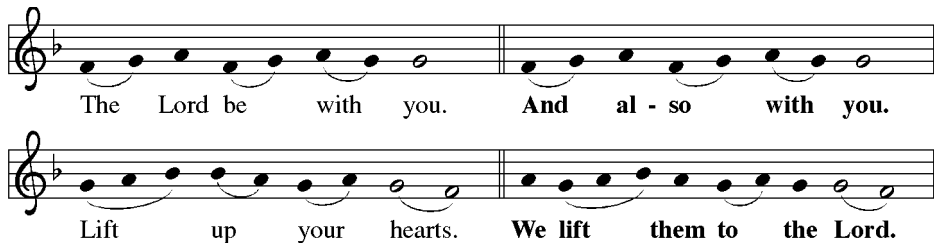
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*OFFERING PRAYER

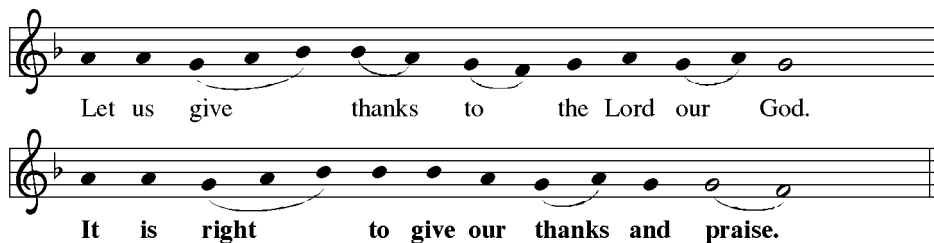
L: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



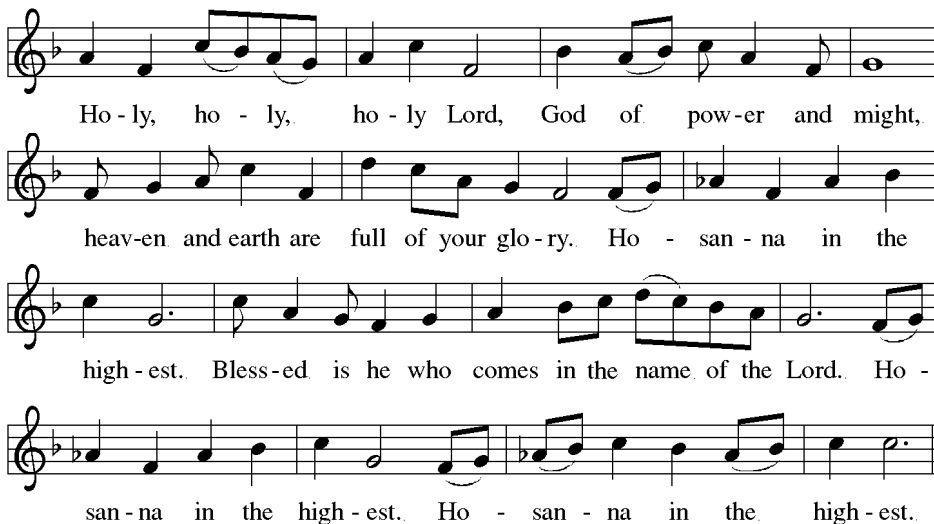
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



*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



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, living, and loving God,
 we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
 for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
 and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.
 We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us,
 healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.

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-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness 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. Alleluia!

*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.**

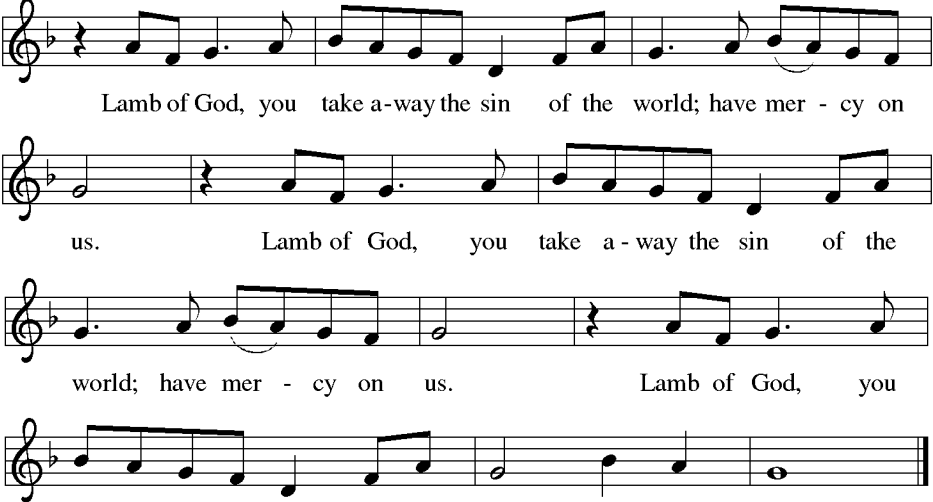
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

***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: "My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"

(ELW 782)



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23

Music: RESIGNATION, North American 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 – *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)



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: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **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- "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

(ELW 536)



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

*DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE: "Christ Is Alive"

(Mary McDonald)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 21

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23 (1)

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Monday, April 22

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Peter 5:1-5

Psalms 95

Tuesday, April 23

1 Chronicles 11:1-9

Revelation 7:13-17

Psalms 95

Wednesday, April 24

Micah 7:8-20

Mark 14:26-31

Psalms 95

Thursday, April 25

Amos 8:1-7

Acts 8:1b-8

Psalms 22:25-31

Friday, April 26

Amos 8:11-13

Acts 8:9-25

Psalms 22:25-31

Saturday, April 27

Amos 9:7-15

Mark 4:30-32

Psalms 22:25-31

NITTANY CONFERENCE CAUCUS

You are invited to attend the Nittany Conference Caucus 7PM April 22. This will be happening at Saint Mark's Lutheran in Pleasant Gap. We will be discussing the ELCA's draft social statement "Civic Life and Faith" as well as other matters coming up during Synod Assembly. While Synod assembly representatives are required to attend, anyone is welcome to attend as well.

BISHOP PAULA'S LAST NAME

Bishop Paula has changed her last name from Schmitt to Lebo (pronounced "LEE-bow" [as in a tied ribbon] IPA: liˌboʊ) If you see any correspondence from her, now you know.



SERVING TODAY

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

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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