



# ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 16, 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

*The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

**PRELUDE:** *"The Lost Chord"*

(Richard Ellsasser)

## GATHERING

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of 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: God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you, for where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

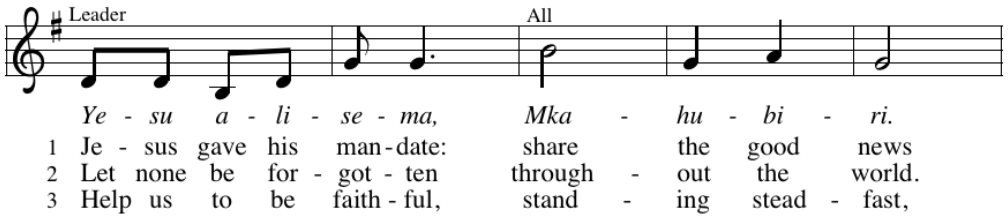
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

### \*GATHERING HYMN *"Listen, God Is Calling"*

(ELW 513)

Refrain  
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,



Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922  
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune  
Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, 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.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 15:34—16:13

*For much of this summer, we will be hearing the early history of the kings of Israel. Last week we heard that Samuel, the last judge, acquiesced to Israel's desire for a king. Saul, whom he chose, was, however, a constant disappointment to him, and would be rejected by God, with his place taken by the flawed, brilliant, charismatic David. .*

<sup>34</sup>Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was

sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

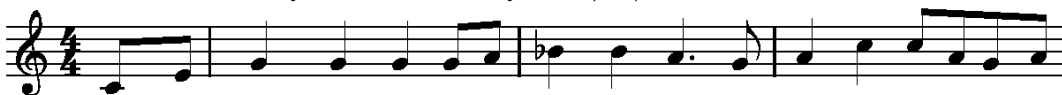
<sup>16:1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah..]

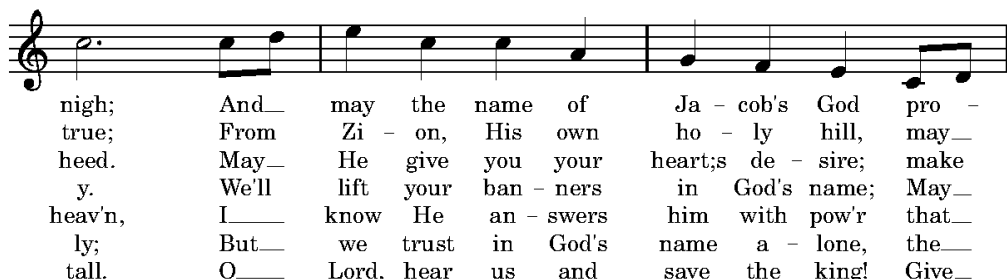
L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 20

*David's descendants ruled God's people for centuries, in good times and bad. This psalm is a prayer for them, and in our mouths, for all the leaders of God's people.*



O \_\_\_\_\_ may the Lord give heed to you when trou-bled days are—  
May \_\_\_\_\_ He send help to \_\_\_\_\_ you from His own san - tu - ar - ry—  
May \_\_\_\_\_ He re - call your sac - ri - fice; your off-rings may He—  
And \_\_\_\_\_ we will sing for \_\_\_\_\_ joy in your sal - va - tions vic - tor -  
The \_\_\_\_\_ Lord saves His a - noit - ed one, and from His ho - ly—  
Some \_\_\_\_\_ put their trust in \_\_\_\_\_ char - i - ots; on hor - ses some re -  
They're brought down to their knees but we have ri - sen and stand



nigh; And may the name of Ja - cob's God pro -  
true; From Zi - on, His own ho - ly hill, may  
heed. May He give you your heart;s de - sire; make  
y. We'll lift your ban - ners in God's name; May  
heav'n, I know He an - swers him with pow'r that  
ly; But we trust in God's name a - lone, the  
tall. O Lord, hear us and save the king! Give



tect. you from on high.  
He give strenght to you.  
all your plans suc - ceed.  
Ya - weh grant your plea.  
His right hand has giv'n.  
Lord our God on high.  
an - swer when we call!

## SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

*The second readings for the next several weeks are from Paul's correspondence with the church at Corinth (we read much of the earlier letters before Lent and Easter began). Since Paul's visit the Corinthians have been misled by traveling prophets who claim miraculous powers and promise freedom from any suffering. In the preceding passage Paul glories in the suffering he shares with the crucified Christ, and reminds his readers that "we have this treasure (the Gospel) in clay jars."*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if

anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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. *Repeat alleluia*

**Welcome with meekness the im-<sup>l</sup> planted word\*  
that has the power to <sup>l</sup> save your souls.**

### \*GOSPEL READING: MARK 4:26-34

*The Gospel of Mark begins with Jesus' baptism and his early ministry of healing and teaching. The summary of this ministry is "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (1:15). Immediately before this passage Jesus has chosen the Twelve to serve as the inner circle of his disciples, his family of choice.*

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

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

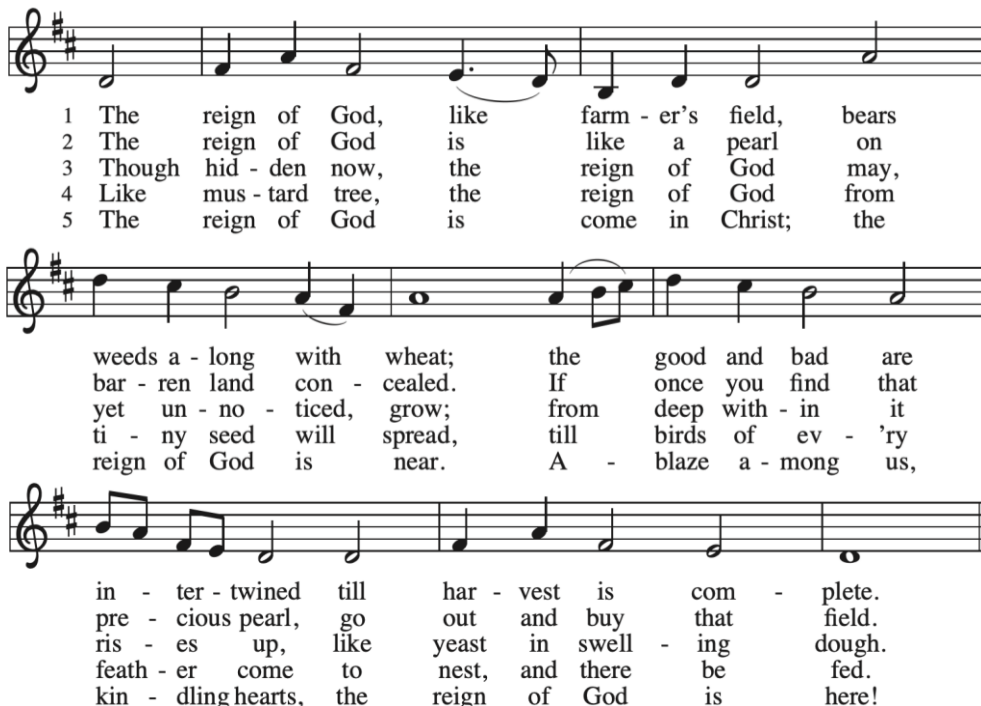
<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

### SERMON

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY: "The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field"

(ACS 952)



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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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**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

L: Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,  
**A: receive our prayer.**

L: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises (*especially*). Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,  
**A: receive our prayer.**

L: As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: With gratitude, we remember the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all the saints who are now at home with you. We especially remember the saints of our congregation who have gone before us, like Diane Kemmerer, Eileen Butchkoski, Pearl Smith, Todd Wheeler, and Charles Aikens, our former pastor. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,  
**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of 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](http://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:** *"Blessed Are the Merciful"* (Roberta Rowland-Raybold)

**OFFERTORY** – *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"* (ELW 184)

Musical notation for the Offertory "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful". The music is written on five staves in a single system, using a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The music ends with a double bar line.

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

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

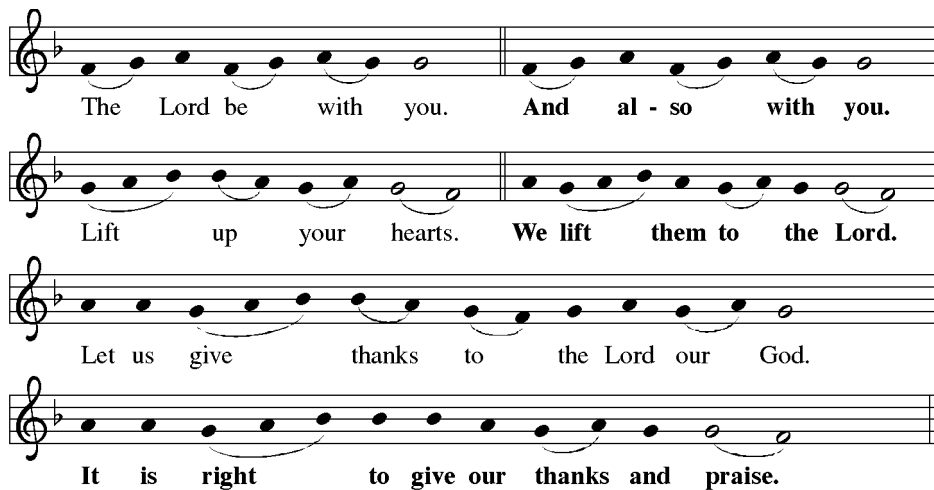
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## \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **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.

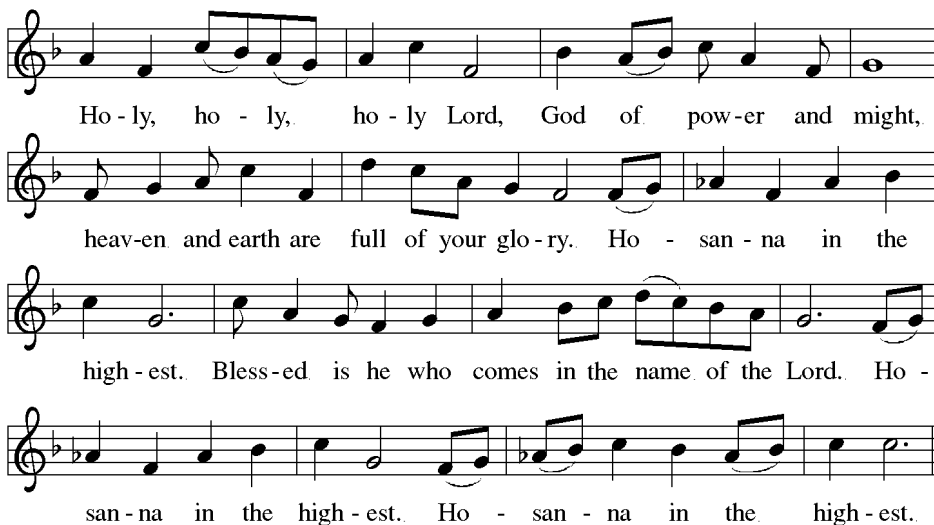
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy, Mighty, and Merciful God,  
in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.  
When Sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing,  
his body given up, and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

**A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

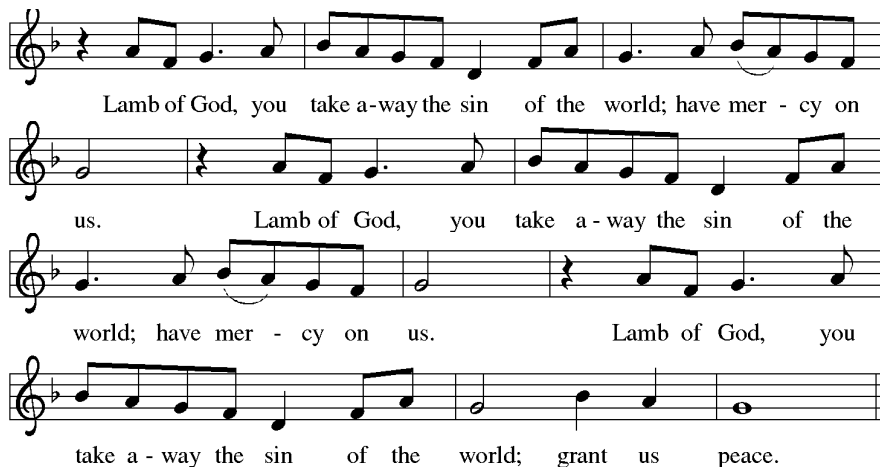
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## \*LAMB OF GOD



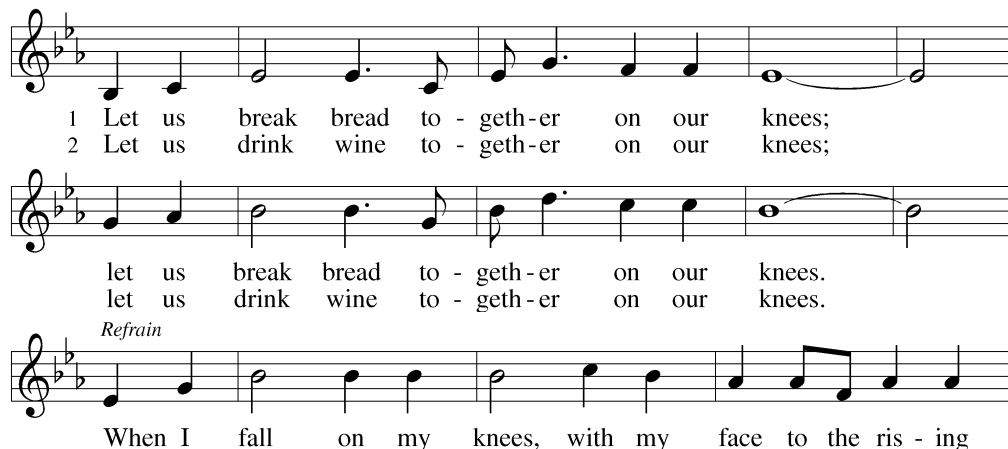
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION HYMN: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

(LBW 212)



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
*Refrain*  
 When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## \*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 fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **A: Amen.**

# SENDING

## \*SENDING OF COMMUNION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*You may be seated.*

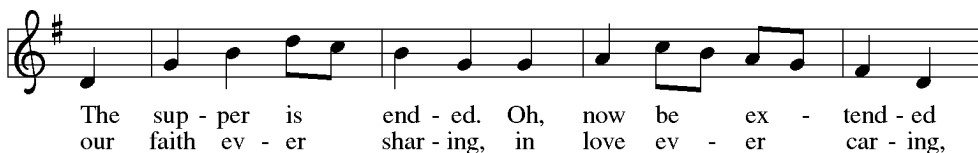
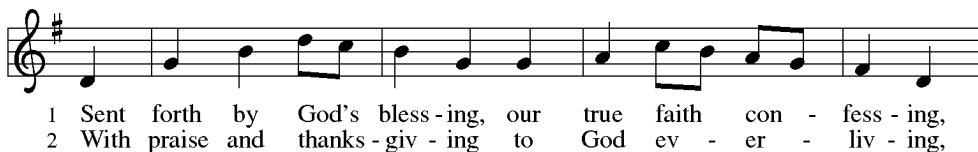
## \*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

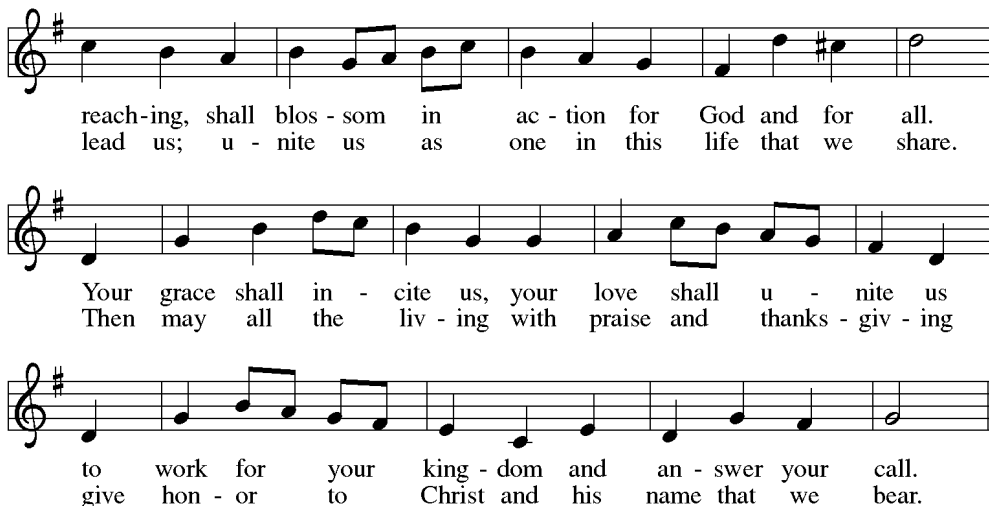
## \*BLESSING

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

## \*SENDING HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

(ELW 537)





reach-ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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## \*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: “Psalm 19”**

*(Benadetto Marcello)*



**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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