



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE: "Festive Prelude on "Llanfair"

(Mary McDonald)

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: 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 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

(ELW 379)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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

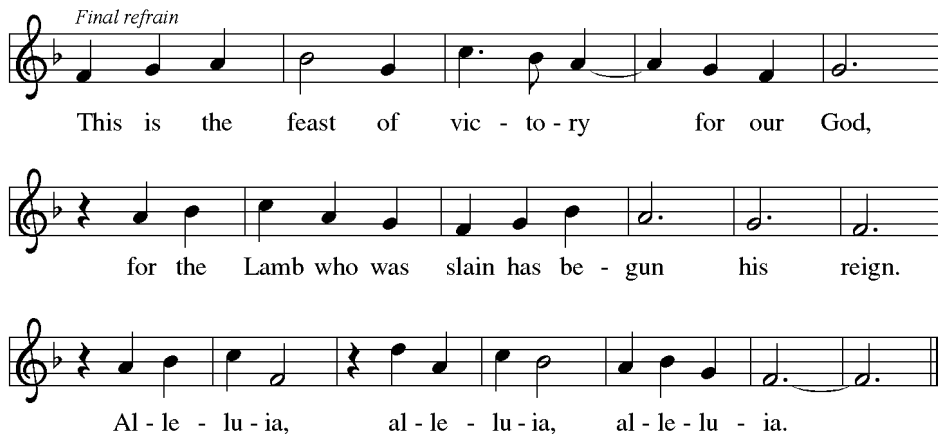
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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: EXODUS 19:1-6

In the Sundays after Easter, it makes sense to look at the stories of what followed another of God's liberating acts, freeing the Israelite slaves from Egypt. For three and half months before this story, Moses had led the Israelites away from the Red Sea into the Sinai Desert. Miraculously, they received food and drink from God, who also protected them from other desert wanderers. The word here translated as "eagle" refers to the Eurasian Griffon Vulture (Gyps fulvus).

¹On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

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

PSALM: 22:25-31

(sung to the tune *Dundee*, ELW 863)

While Psalm 22 begins with the cry of abandonment Jesus quoted from the cross (in Matthew and Mark), it ends with this song of praise, celebrating not only the singer's rescue by God, but the global reach of the good news.



With in the con-gre - ga - tion great, my praises shall be of Thee; Be -
The poor shall eat, and shall be filled; those see - king God will give praise
And all the ends of earth shall turn, re - mem - ber - ing the Lord; All
For all do - min - ion far and near be - longs to Him a - lone. The



fore all those who fear you I'll ful - fill my vows to thee
to the Lord; all you who seek may your hearts ev - er live!
fam - lies of the na - tions will bow down and praise a - ccord.
Lord rules ov - er na - tions all, from His al - migh - ty throne.

The rich of earth will worship Him, all who to dust descend;
And all shall kneel - none of them can their soul from death defend.

Descendants, then, we all serve Him - the children yet to be;
They will be told about the Lord, future posterity.

For they shall come, and shall declare His truth and righteousness
unto a people yet unborn, for He has done all this.

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

During the Easter season this year, we will be reading from John's letters to his community. A central part of John's message was the love Jesus's followers had for one another, and the unity which faith provides. This correspondence, however, comes from a time when his community was divided and splintering.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

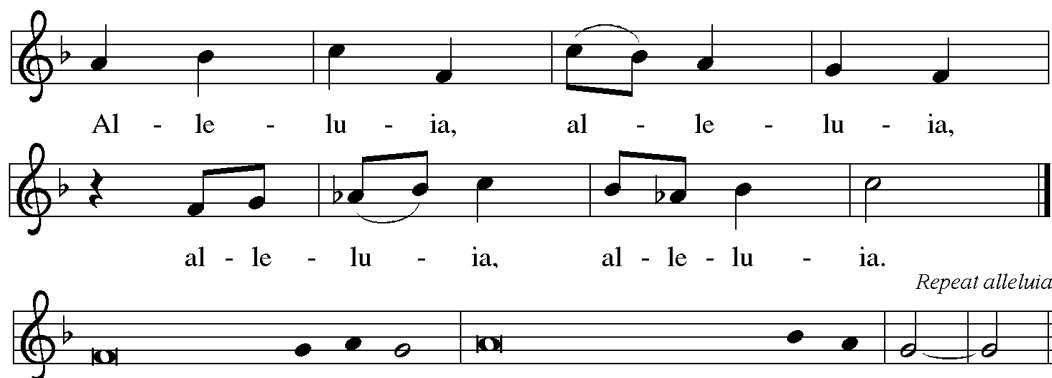
¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his

Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*I am the vine, you ¹ are the branches.**

*Those who abide in me and I in them ¹ bear much fruit**

GOSPEL READING – JOHN 15:1-8

The reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is always from Jesus' last lecture, the night before he was betrayed, to his followers. He has just warned them that he would be leaving, but promising to send them Spirit to continue their connection with him and with the Father.

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

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in

me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"*

(ELW 403)



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters especially Slab Cabin Run. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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 by texting “start” to (833) 958-3747, 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: “Sarabande”

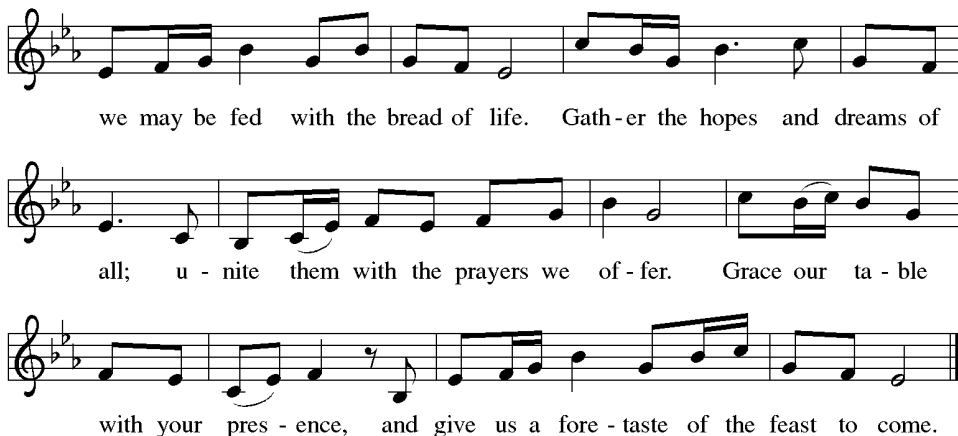
(Gordon Young)

OFFERTORY – “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

(ELW 184)

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

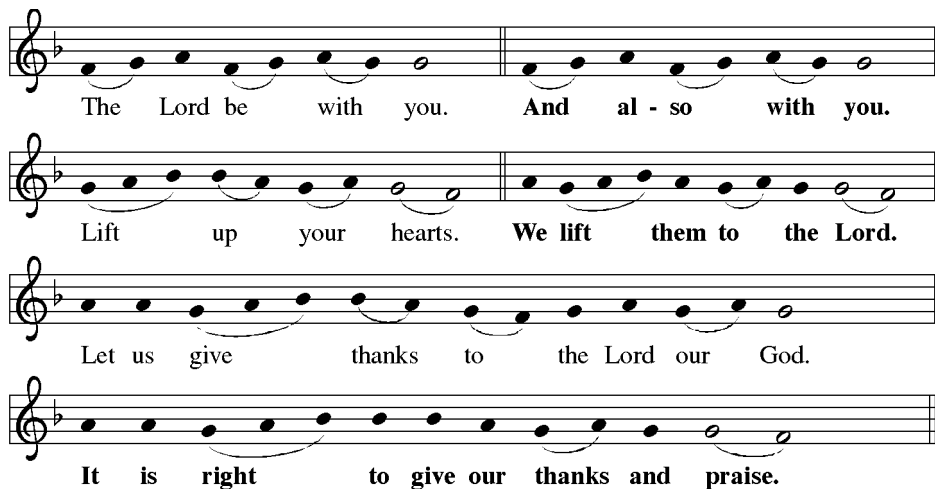
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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



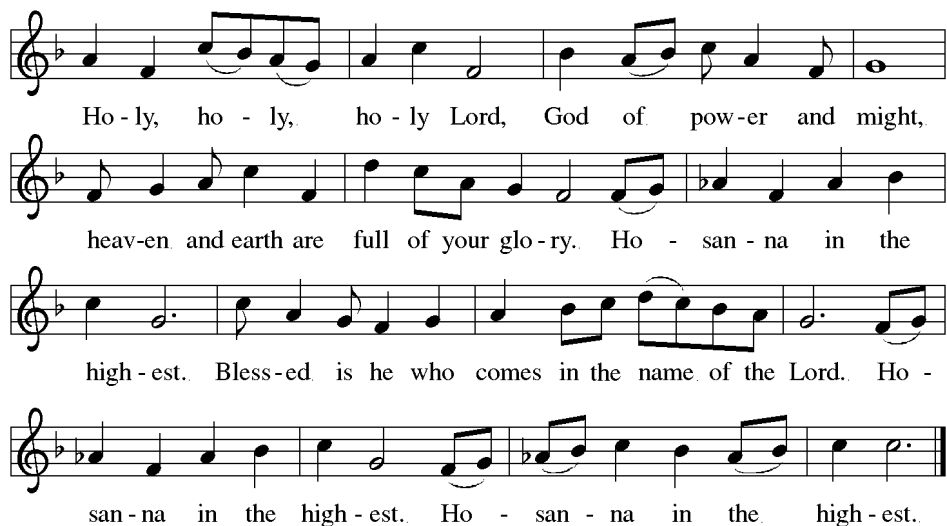
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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



*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:

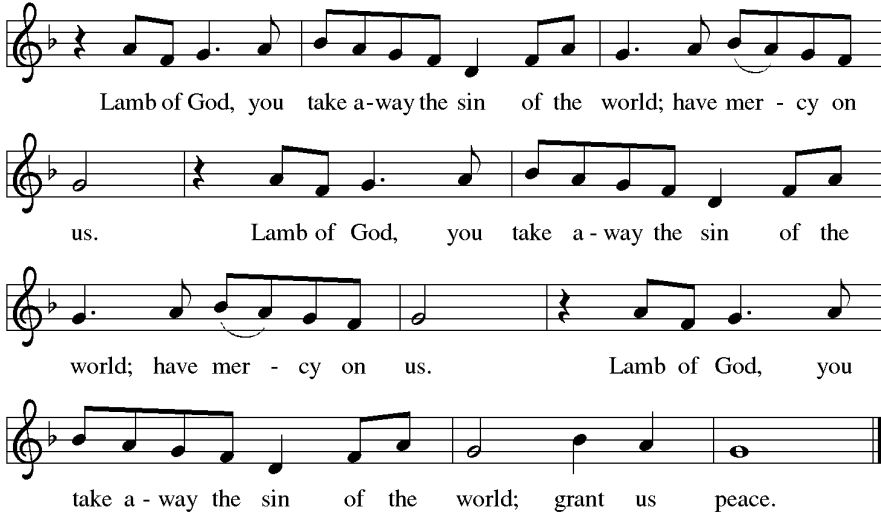
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



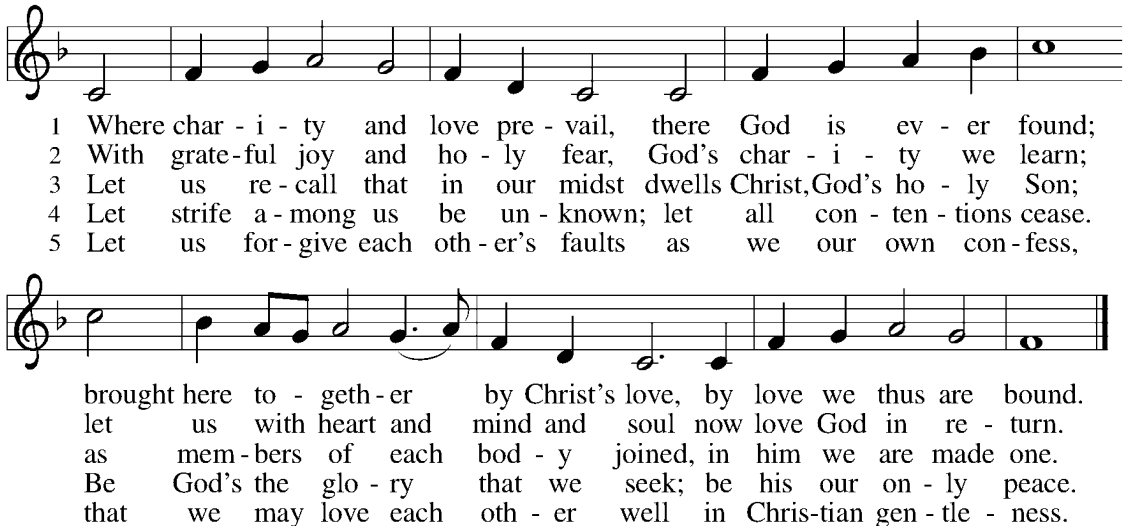
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

(ELW 359)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,
brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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- "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

(ELW 367)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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: *"Postlude on " Maccabeus"*

(Jason D. Payne)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 28

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31 (27)

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Monday, April 29

Isaiah 5:1-7

Galatians 5:16-26

Psalm 80

Tuesday, April 30

Isaiah 32:9-20

James 3:17-18

Psalm 80

Wednesday, May 1

Isaiah 65:17-25

John 14:18-31

Psalm 80

Thursday, May 2

Isaiah 49:5-6

Acts 10:1-34

Psalm 98

Friday, May 3

Isaiah 42:5-9

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 98

Saturday, May 4

Deuteronomy 32:44-47

Mark 10:42-45

Psalm 98

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.....Lauren Muthler
Musician..... Jim Rearick
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

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.

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright (c) 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000528. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright (c) 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns reprinted and streamed under OneLicense Annual License, A-726322 for Aug 11, 2023 - Aug 10, 2024. Words found in psalm taken from Seedbed.com, written by Tim and Julie Tennent. Permission is granted to use these metrical settings for public worship with acknowledgement of the source. Permission is not granted for commercial use or financial charge.