



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 6, 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's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

PRELUDE: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

(Don Phillips)

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: Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

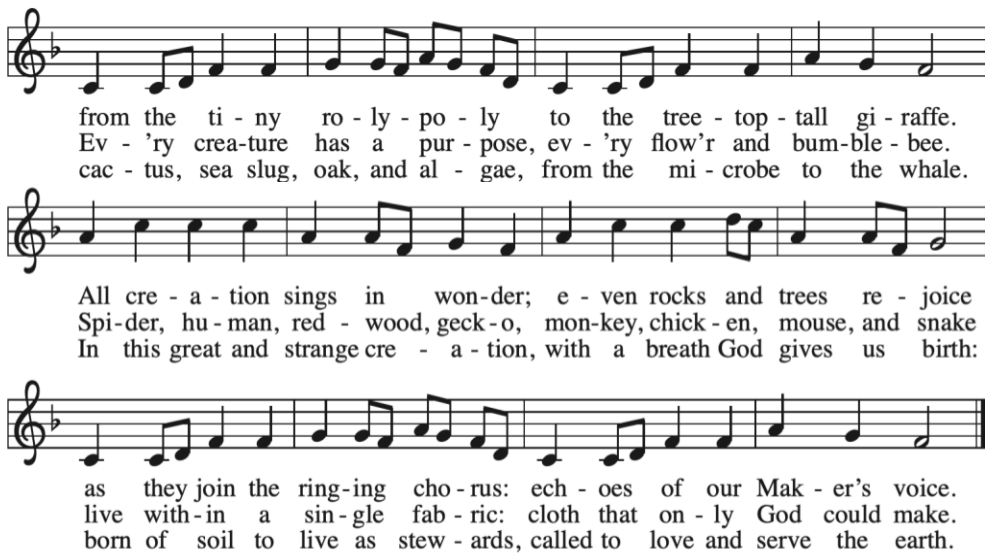
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

*GATHERING HYMN "Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

(ACS 1064)



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
 Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.

All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:

as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
 live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 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

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JOB 1:1; 2:1-10

This week we begin reading through the book of Job. While much of that book is poetry, it begins and ends with stories in prose, including this one set primarily in the court of heaven.

¹There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

^{2:1}One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ²The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant

Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” ⁴Then Satan answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” ¹⁰But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

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

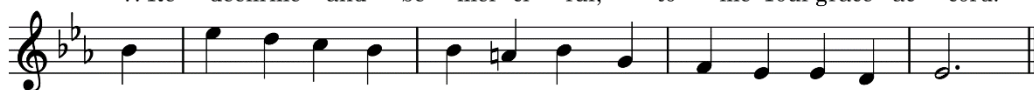
PSALM: 26

(sung to the tune Dundee ELW 863)

This psalm could be the song of Job; both it and Job's story reminds us why we pray "save us from the time of trial."



1. Lord, vin-di - cate me, for I've walked in my in - te - gri - ty,
2. Ex - am-ine me, and try me, Lord; test heartand mind for fault;
3. I don't sit with de - ceit-ful ones, nor plot with hy - po - crites.
4. I washmy hands in in - no - cence be - fore Your al - tar Lord.
5. I love the housewhere You live, Lord-- Your glo - ry dwells with - in.
6. For in theirhands are wick-ed schemes, bribes are in their right hand;
7. Re - deemme and be mer-ci - ful; to me Your grace ac - cord.



1. I have not wai-vered from Your path--I've trus-ted, Lord, in thee.
2. For Your love's ev - er be - fore me; in Your truth I do walk.
3. I hate the ev - il gath-ther-ings; with wick-ed will not sit.
4. I tell a - loud Your praiseand all Your wond-rousdeeds re - cord.
5. Don't take my soul a - way withthose blood - thir - sty ones who sin.
6. But I walk in in - teg - ri ty-- on le - velground I stand.
7. And in thegreat as - sem-bly I will praise and bless the Lord.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Today we begin several weeks of reading Hebrews with a passage which quotes today's psalm. Here the author introduces two themes of the book: the centrality of Jesus as Savior, and the continuing reality of suffering and patience until his return.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through

whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?
⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise 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.

If we love one another, God lives in us

Repeat alleluias

and God's love is perfect - ed in us.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 10:2-16

Jesus has left Galilee and returned to the area where John the Baptist had preached. Surrounded by crowds, the Pharisees try to maneuver him to take a single side of a current debate. Some taught that a man could divorce his wife for any reason; others that a man could only divorce a wife for committing adultery. It was hoped that he would offend one side or the other.

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

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

SERMON

***BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS** *(Will occur during the singing of the hymn of the day. If you have pictures, have them pulled up and ready.)*

***HYMN OF THE DAY: "God of the Sparrow"**

(ELW 740)



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Awe
blast	How	does	the	crea - ture	cry	Woe
grave	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Grace
gal	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Care



How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Praise
How	does	the	crea - ture	cry	Save
How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Thanks
How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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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**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

L: God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times. May we listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet especially Lois Corl, Pauline Hommel, and William Tyndale, the translator and martyr, whom the greater Church commemorates today. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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: "Softly and Tenderly"

(Dan Forrest)

OFFERTORY: "Sing to the Lord of Harvest (vs 1)"

(ELW 694)

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

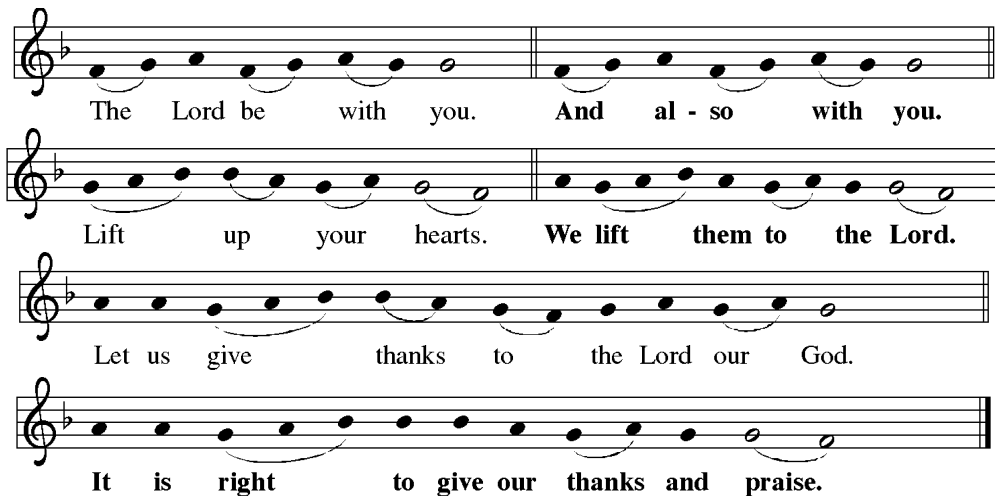
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

*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.

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

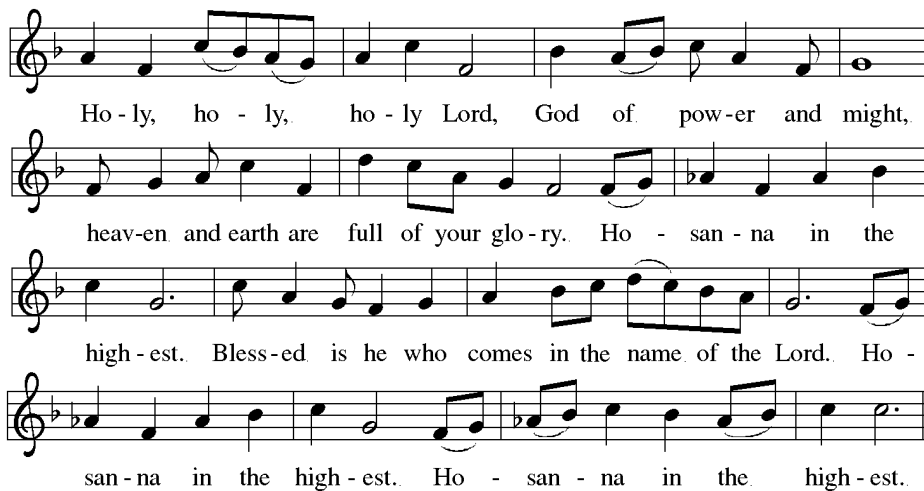
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*SANCTUS



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

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

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

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

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, our 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;

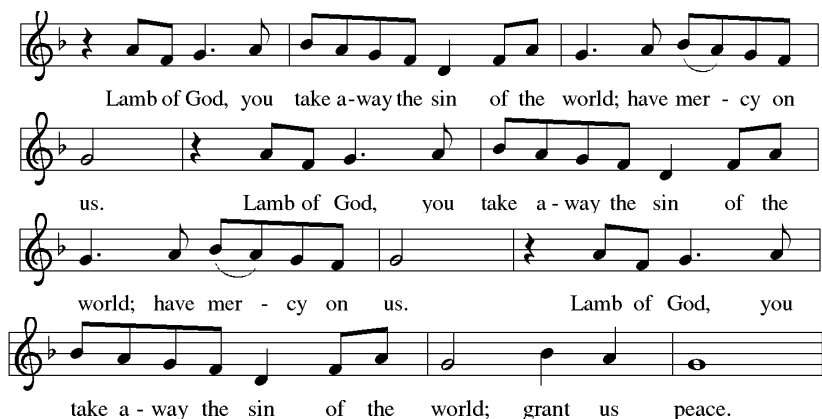
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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



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: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

(ELW 742)



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?

3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!

We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—

Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?

Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!

Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

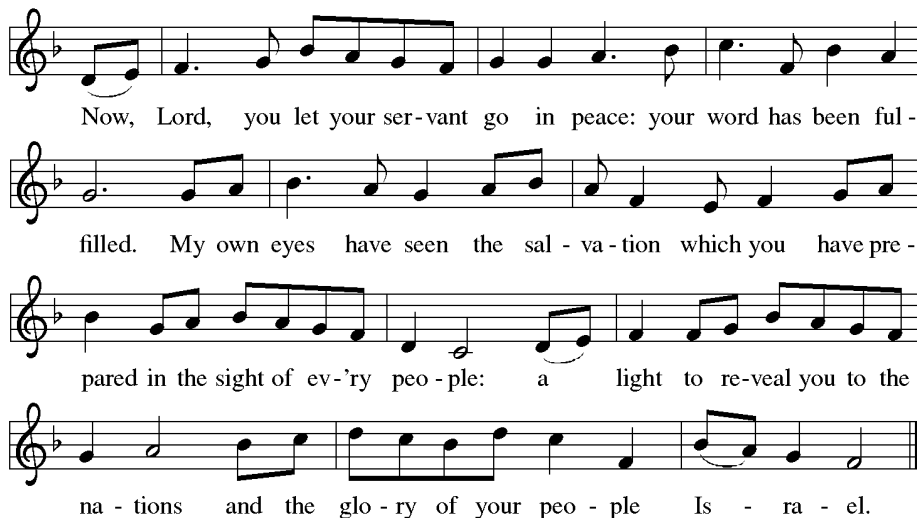
Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

*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: "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"

(ELW 835)



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grief: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



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

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Recessional on "Deo gracias"

(Douglas E. Wagner)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, October 6

Complementary Series

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalms 8 (5)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

Thursday, October 10

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

Hebrews 3:7-19

Psalms 90:12-17

Semi-continuous Series

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalms 26 (3)

Monday, October 7

Deuteronomy 22:13-30

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Psalms 112

Friday, October 11

Deuteronomy 5:22-33

Hebrews 4:1-11

Psalms 90:12-17

Tuesday, October 8

Deuteronomy 24:1-5

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Psalms 112

Saturday, October 12

Amos 3:13—4:5

Matthew 15:1-9

Psalms 90:12-17

Wednesday, October 9

Jeremiah 3:6-14

Matthew 5:27-36

Psalms 112



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Eleanor Bird
Musician..... James Rearick
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Karen Magnuson

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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