



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 15, 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

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

PRELUDE

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: 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 "The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe"

(ACS 1068)



1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es
 2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its
 3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's

up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant
 song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -
 glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your

flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine
 verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and
 word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is

bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -
 joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -
 grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -

der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.
 tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.
 er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015
 Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Ahlén, 1894–1982
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*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also, with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

A: Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 1:20-33

For the past several months, our first readings have been telling the stories of Israel's early kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. Today's reading continues several weeks of listening to the wisdom traditionally collected from the sayings of Solomon. In today's reading (as in several other places in Scripture), Wisdom itself is personified as a woman, inviting humans to share her gifts.

²⁰Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

²¹At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

²²"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

²³Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

²⁴Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

²⁵and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you,

²⁷when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

³⁰would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof,

³¹therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

³²For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

³³but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

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

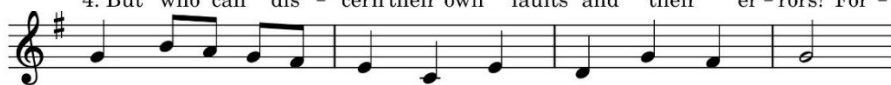
PSALM: 19

(sung to the tune The Ash Grove ELW 881)

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



1. The hea - vens are_ tell - ing the glo - ry_ of_ God, and the
2. It ri - ses at_ one end of hea - ven and_ tra - vels; Its
3. The pre - cepts of_ God are right, giv - ing the_ heart joy; Com -
4. But who can dis - cern their own faults and their er - rors? For -



1. skies are_ de - clar - ing the work of God's hands.
2. cir - cuit_ ex - tends ov - er all of the earth.
3. mands of_ the_ Lord are pure, light - ing the eyes.
4. give all_ my_ hid - den sins-- let them not rule!



1. For day af - ter_ day they speak, pour - ing_ forth know - ledge, and
2. And no - thing is_ hid - den from its heat or_ glo - ry, And
3. The fear of the_ Lord is en - dur - ing_ for - ev - er; God's
4. Then I will be_ blame - less, com - plete, and ac - quit - ted of



1. night af - ter_ night is dis - played their ex - panse.
2. like it, God's law shines with po - wer and worth.
3. judg - ments are_ true and right, mak - ing us wise.
4. ev - ry_ trans - gres - sion that be - sets the fool.



1. Their voice is_ not_ heard--there's no speech and_ no_
2. The_ law of_ the_ Lord's is most per - fect_ and_
3. They are much more pre - cious than gold, and_ much
4. May_ all of_ the_ words of my mouth and_ the_



1. word, but their sound has gone forth to the earth's far - thest end.
2. ho - ly, Re - viv - ing the_ soul and re - stor - ing the heart.
3. sweet - er than hon - ey_ and hon - ey - comb where hon - ey's stored.
4. thoughts of my heart be_ ac - cep - ted O Lord, in Your sight;



1. The sun in the_ hea - ven comes forth like_ a_ bride - groom; The
2. The stat - utes of_ God can be trust - ed_ most sure - ly; they
3. More - ov - er, by_ them is Your ser - vant in - struct - ed. In
4. O Lord, my sure Rock and my pre - cious re - deem - er, May



1. Lord for_ a_ race does God's champ - i - on send.
2. make wise_ the_ sim - ple and truth do im - part.
3. keep - ing_ Your stat - utes, there is great re - ward.
4. my life_ be_ plea - sing and lived in Your light.

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:1-12

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

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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*

**Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for | the unrighteous,*
in order to bring | you to God.**

***GOSPEL READING: MARK 8:27-38**

Following stories of Jesus' amazing miracles and powerful teachings, this reading includes two important firsts. Peter's confession is the first time anyone has called Jesus "Christ" – the Anointed One of God, for whose liberating appearance the Jews were eagerly waiting. And it is the first time Jesus indicates what being the Christ entails – not military victory, but humiliating death and unexpected vindication.

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

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lift High the Cross"

(ELW 660)



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
- 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
- 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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*INVITATION TO BAPTISM

*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve (*especially*). Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember our beloved dead especially Twila May Corl and Janet Conrad, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
A: Amen.

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING



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

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "God, Whose Farm Is All Creation (vs. 2)"

(ELW 734)

2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of
sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,
rip - ened in this fruit and grain.

Text: John Arlott, 1914–1991
Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954
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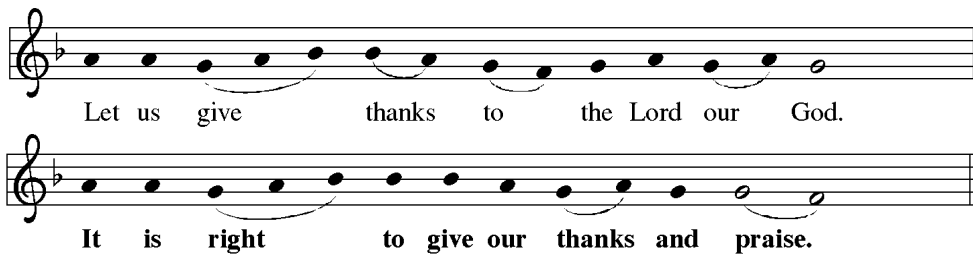
*OFFERING PRAYER

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

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

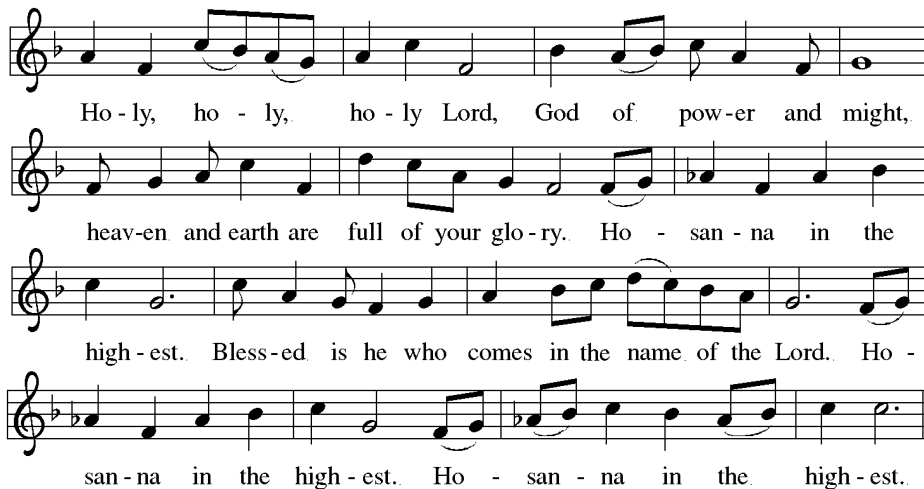
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



*PREFACE

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

*SANCTUS



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.
In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **A: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

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

Give us this day our daily bread;

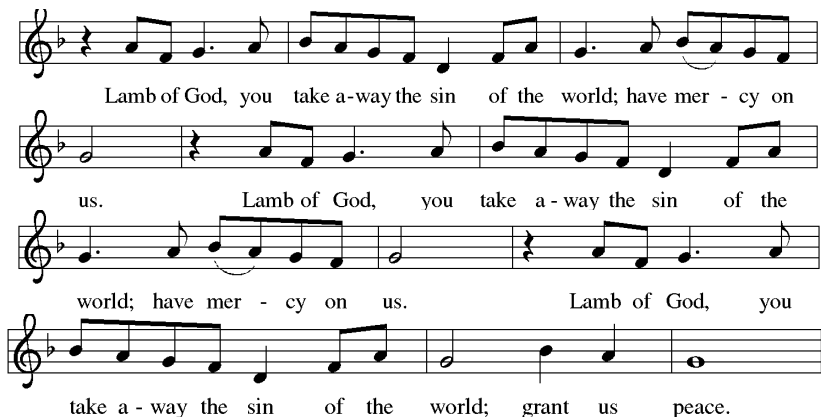
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*LAMB OF GOD



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words appearing on two lines. The second staff continues the melody and includes the word 'us.' at the beginning. The third staff continues the melody and includes the words 'world; have mer - cy on us.' and 'Lamb of God, you'. The fourth staff concludes the melody with the words 'take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.' and ends with a double bar line.

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: "Will You Come and Follow Me"

(ELW 798)

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - ers
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

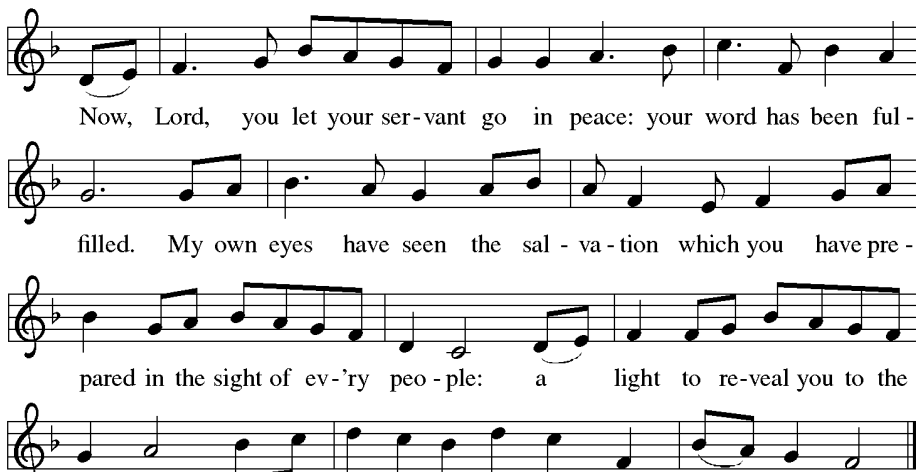
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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"**

(ELW 774)



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

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

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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