



TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 24, 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

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

PRELUDE: "Worship the King" (Terry Baldridge)

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: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. 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 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

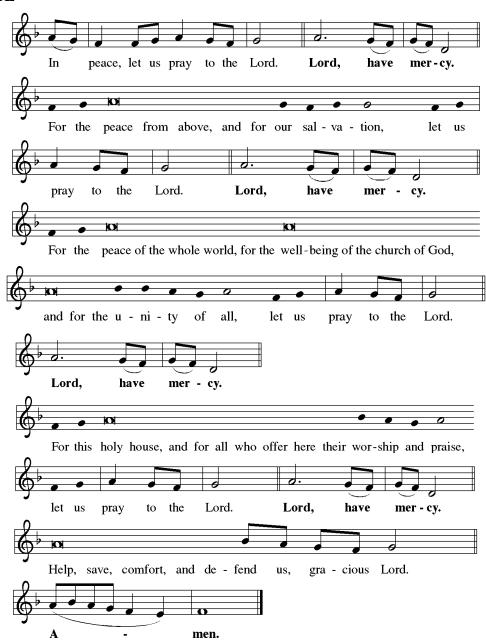
(ELW 435)



Music: HELMSLEÝ, Thomas Olívers, 1725–1799 *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.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of 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: 2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

During this summer, our First Readings followed the stories of the great early kings of Israel – Saul, David, and Solomon. This reading returns to those stories, giving the dying words of David.

¹ Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

- ²The spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his word is upon my tongue.
- ³The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me:
- "One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God,
- ⁴ is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land."
 - ⁵ Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?
- ⁶ But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

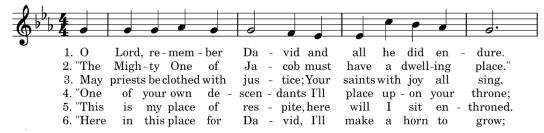
⁷ to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

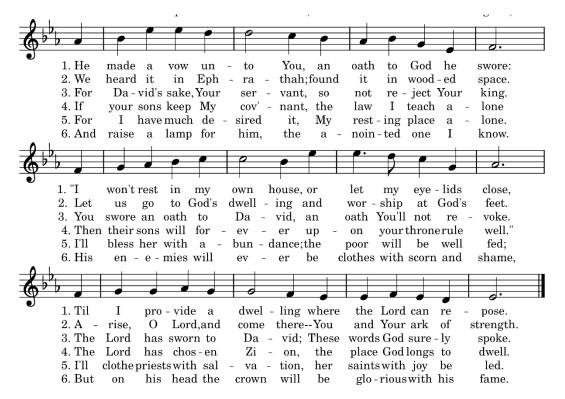
L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 132 1-12 [13-18]

(sung to the tune Aurelia ELW 654)

This psalm, like the First Reading to which it is the response, tells of the promise made to David that his dynasty would never end.





SECOND READING: REVELATION 1:4B-8

Like 1 Peter 2:9 this passage echoes Exodus 19:6, where God makes the chosen people "a priestly kingdom" – that is, a community under divine rule, which serves as an intermediary between God and creation. At the beginning of this apocalyptic book, the author gives away what will become clear later: his readers are to preach to and pray for the world, whose fate is determined in love: "the kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ."

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 18:33-37

This year's gospel reading for Christ the King is perhaps unexpected. Jesus has been betrayed, arrested, convicted, and is now before the governor, who has the power to execute or release him.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eighteenth chapter. A: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

(ELW 855)



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

*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 t

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

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God, A: receive our prayer.

L: Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf (*local officials may be named*). Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent (*worship ministries may be named*). Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: In your eternal presence the saints (*recently deceased members of the congregation may be named*) sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

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

<u>MEAL</u>

OFFERING

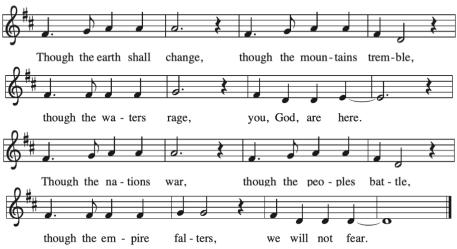


Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give**, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Meditation on "St. Clement" (Pierce Dickens)

OFFERTORY: "Though the Earth Shall Change"

(ACS 1025)



Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46 Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

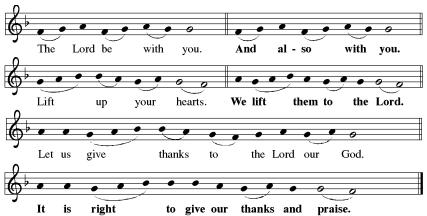
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*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal, you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

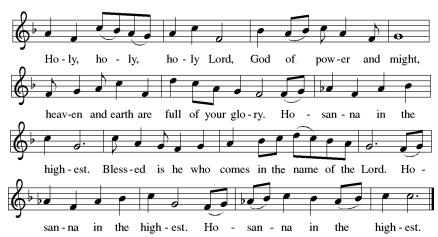
* DIALOGUE



*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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

we appeal to you for we are

surrounded by evil and bordered by death.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace

and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore,

the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints the advent of his loving redemption of our suffering world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in 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

*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;

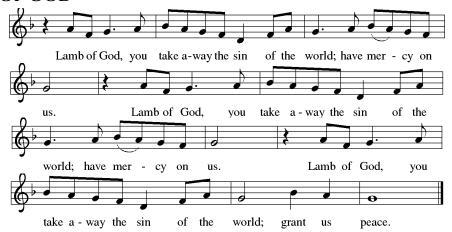
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

*LAMB OF GOD



A NOTE ON COMMUNION WAFERS



To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain 15ppm gluten or less (The

US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results.

If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

COMMUNION

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



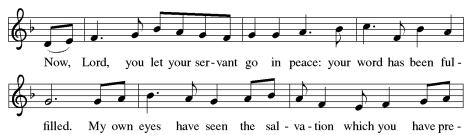
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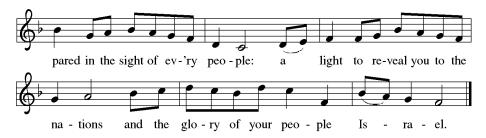
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

*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)





*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

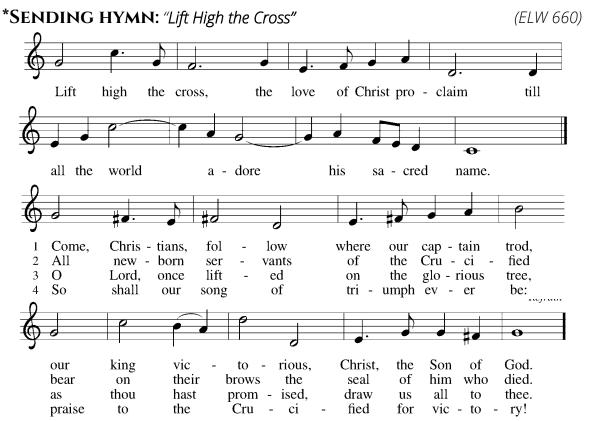
ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*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.**



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

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 24

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 (2) Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Semi-continuous Series

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 [13-18] (9)

Monday, November 25

Daniel 7:19-27 Revelation 11:1-14 Psalm 76

Tuesday, November 26

Ezekiel 29:1-12 Revelation 11:15-19 Psalm 76

Wednesday, November 27

Ezekiel 30:20-26 John 16:25-33 Psalm 76

Thursday, November 28

Joel 2:21-27 Psalm 126 (3) 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Matthew 6:25-33

Friday, November 29

Nehemiah 9:16-25 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 Psalm 25:1-10

Saturday, November 30

Nehemiah 9:26-31 Luke 21:20-24 Psalm 25:1-10



SERVING TODAY

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

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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