ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

Welcome to Saint Paul!

We are happy to have you here!

How to know when to stand, sit, or speak

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.
You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

How to sing hymns in harmony

To save space in printing the bulletin, we usually limit what is printed to the melody. If you'd like to sing in harmony, the hymn numbers are listed in our bulletin so you can open the red books in the pews (called ELWs).

We are an Open Communion Congregation

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

How to financially support us

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.

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.

Gathering

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

An Introduction to the day

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Prelude – *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.*

*Confession and forgiveness

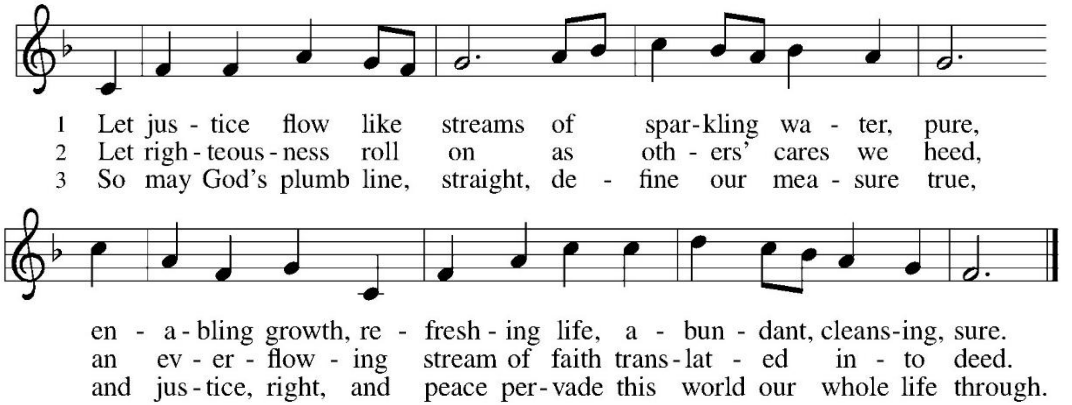
P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

P Most merciful God, **A: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. 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 *"Let Justice Flow like Streams"* *(ELW 717)*



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

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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: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
A: Amen.

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:27-34

Because Luke often presents Jesus as carrying on the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, our first readings during these weeks is from several of those figures, now from Jeremiah. In this reading, the disaster foreseen by Jeremiah has come to pass: Jerusalem is sacked, the temple is destroyed, and the people taken into exile in Babylon. But now Jeremiah, the prophet of doom, offers consolation and hope to the exiles.

27 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the
house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. 28 And just as I have
watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so

I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. [29] In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

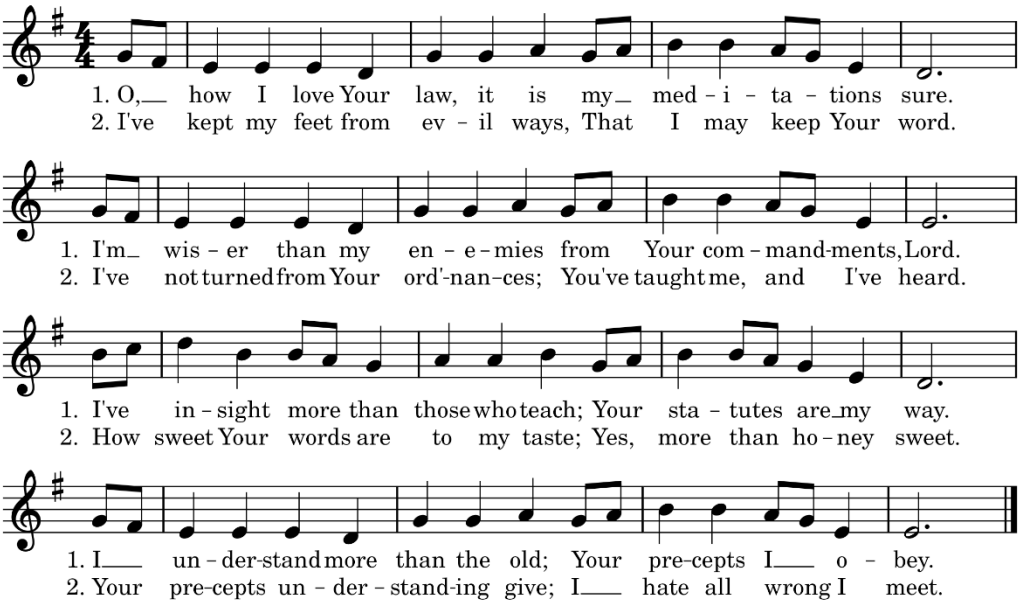
[30] But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

[31] The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. [32] It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. [33] But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 119:97-104 *(sung to the tune Kingsfold ELW 412)*

Jeremiah foresaw a day when the people would know the will of God by heart, and rejoice in God's commands. These verses, like much of Psalm 119 (by far the longest chapter in the Bible), describes that joy.



Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Today we continue reading through the letters addressed to Timothy, the author's colleague, who seems uncertain that he is equal to the task of leading the community that has been left in his charge. "Scripture" in this passage refers to what we would call the Old Testament.

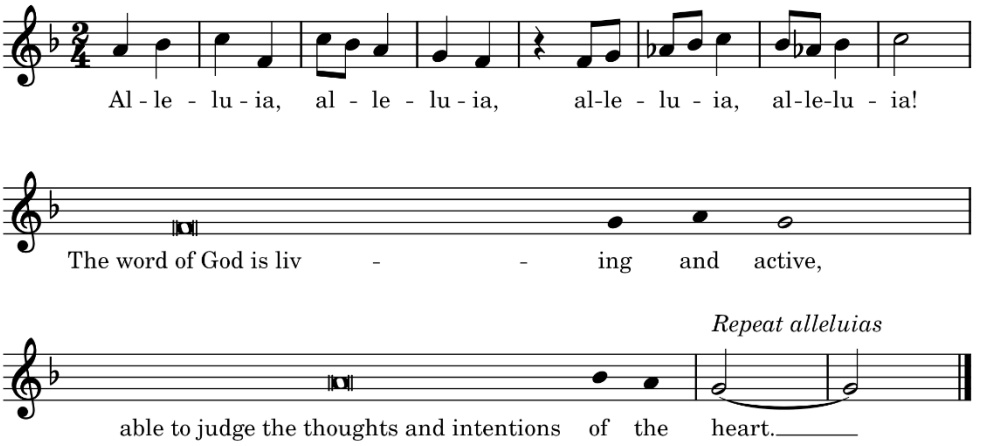
14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from
whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are
able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired
by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in
righteousness, 17 so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good
work.

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the
message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke,
and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when
people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will

accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. [5] As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Through these months we have been readings of Jesus' teaching and miracles as he makes his way to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be resurrected. Today's reading immediately follows the warning he gives his disciples about the terrors which will accompany the revealing of the kingdom of God.

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

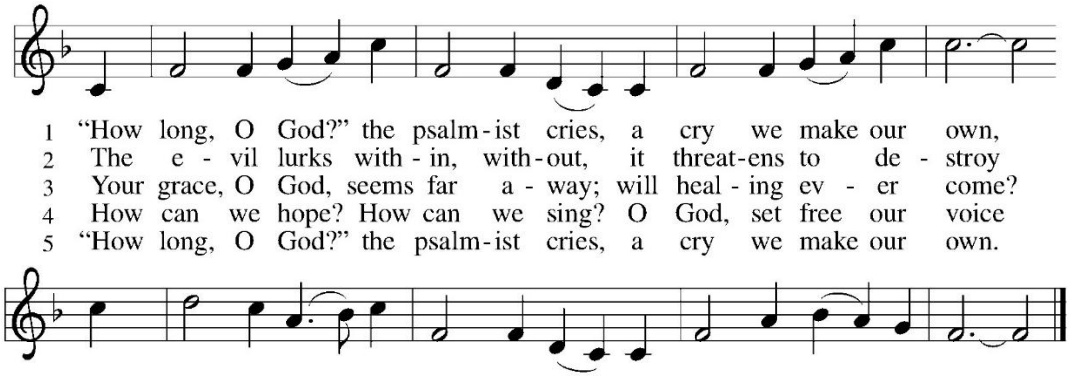
[1] Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose
heart. [2] He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had
respect for people. [3] In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying,
'Grant me justice against my accuser.' [4] For a while he refused, but later he said to
himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, [5] yet because this
widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by
continually coming.' " [6] And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. [7] And will
not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay

long in helping them? [8] I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?""

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

Sermon

*Hymn Of the Day *"How Long, O God"* *(ELW 698)*



Text: Ralph F. Smith, 1950–1994
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional
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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.

Healing

Introduction

Prayers of Intercession

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials at all levels humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,
A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,
A: receive our prayer.
We pray for St Paul Lutheran in Pine Grove Mills. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,
A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ especially Luke, Christ's biographer and your evangelist. God of grace,
A: receive our prayer.

L: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen**.

Laying on of Hands & Anointing

During the laying on of hands, you're invited to come forward to the altar. As you wait before or after, you are invited to sing Healer of our Every Ill, *ELW 612.*

*Blessing

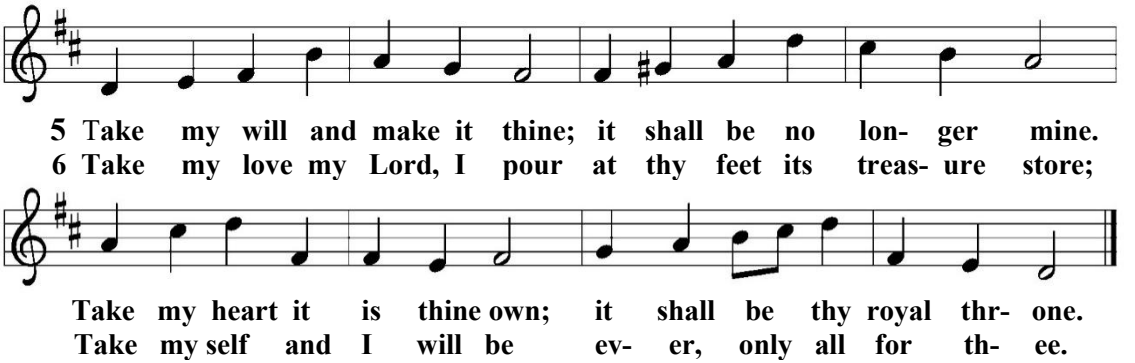
*Peace

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

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

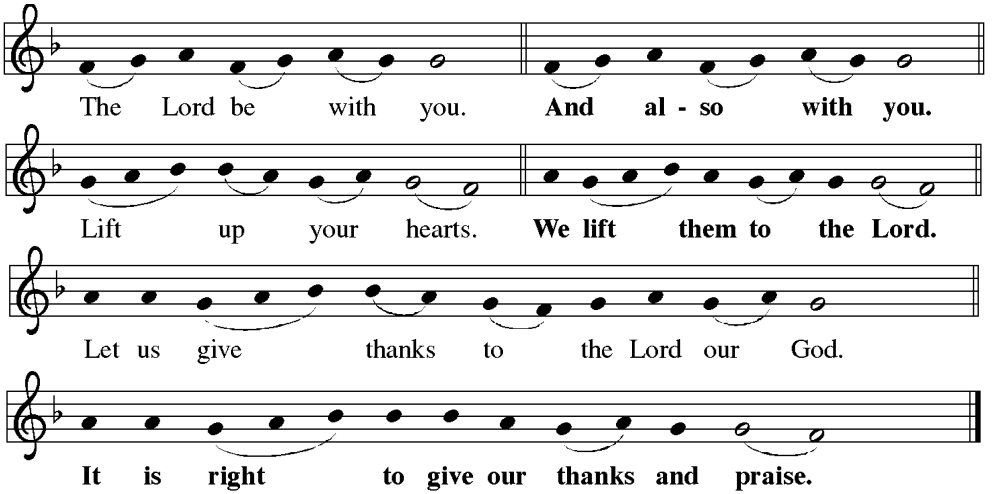
*Offertory: *"Take My Life, That I May Be" vs. 3 & 4* *(ELW 685)*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: Patmos, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

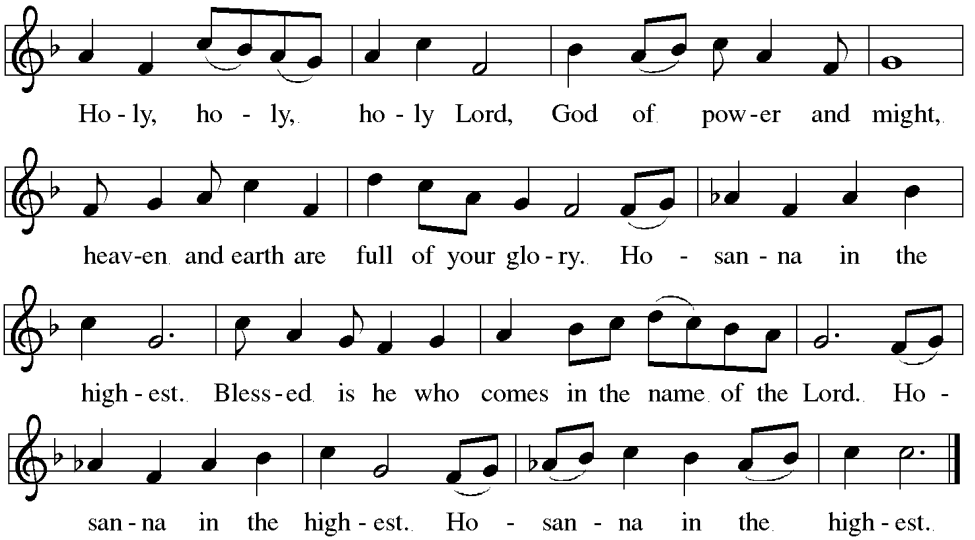
* DIALOGUE



*PROPER 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 the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so, with Luke and the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of 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: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

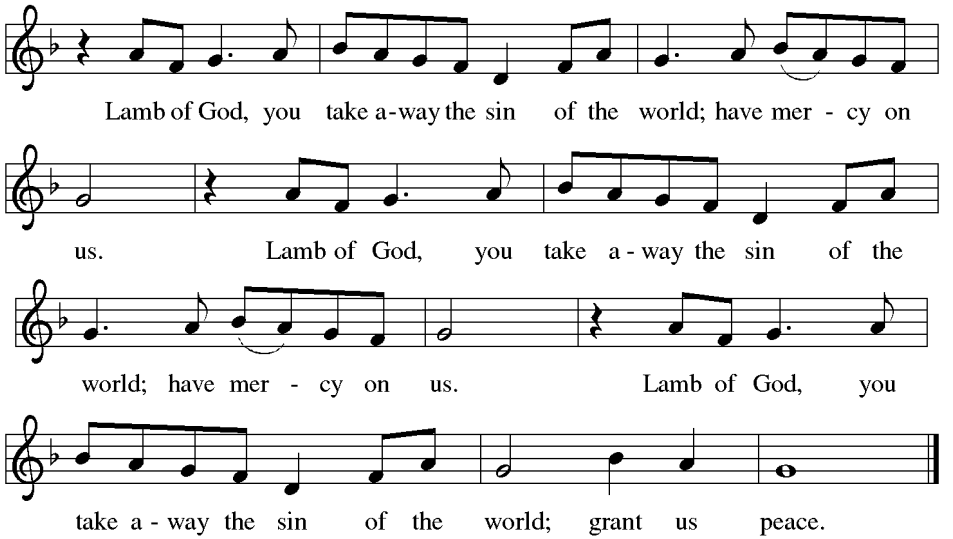
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

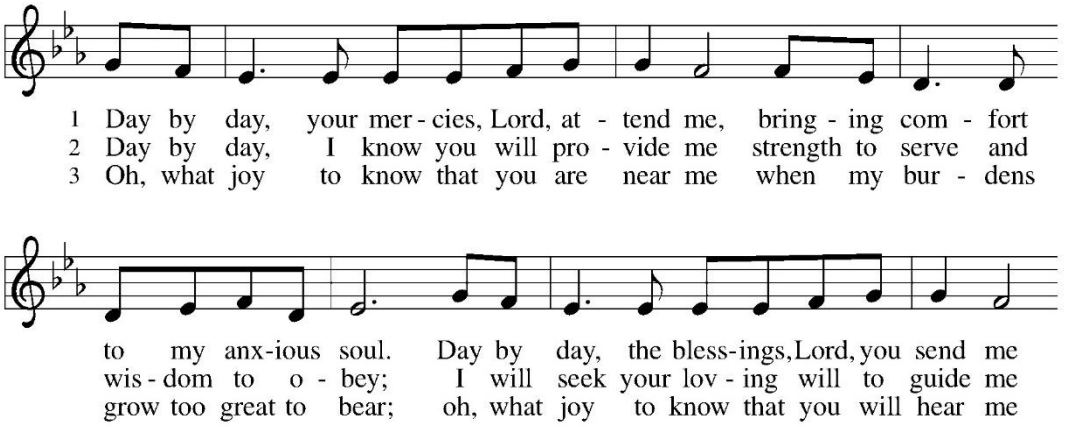
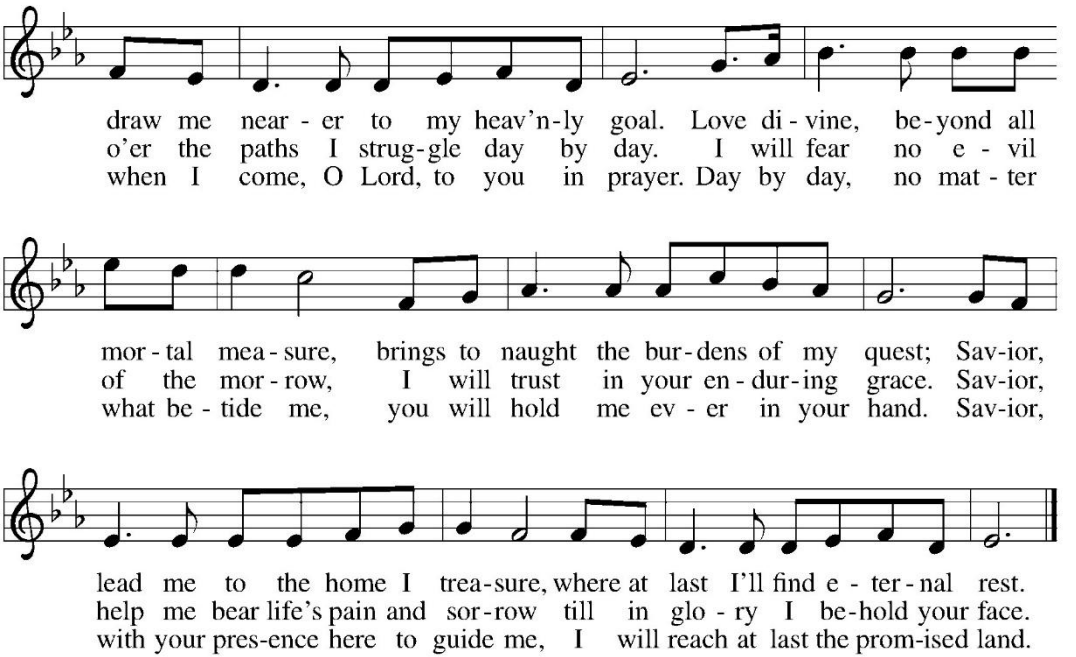
*Lamb of God



Communion

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

Communion Hymn: *"Day by Day"* *(ELW 790)*



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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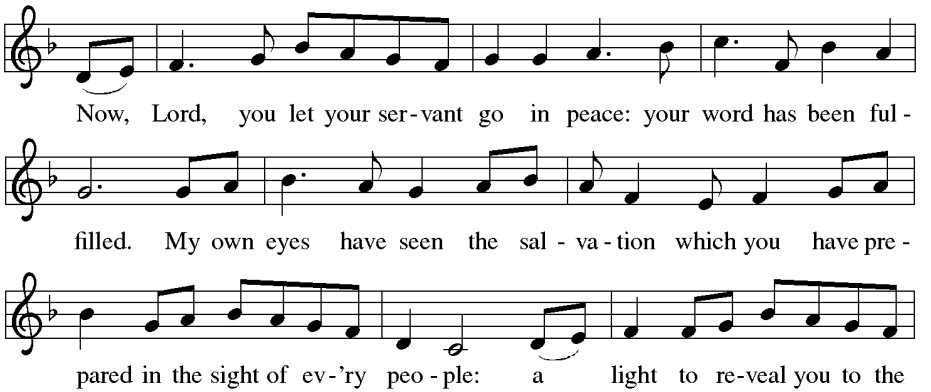
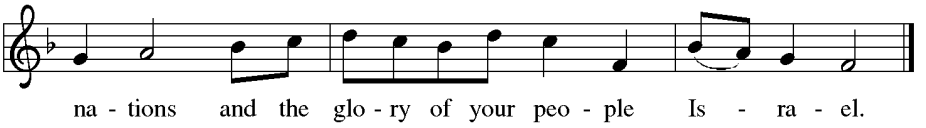
*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

*Post-Communion Canticle – *Nunc Dimittis* (*Now, Lord)*



*Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

Sending

*Sending of communion

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

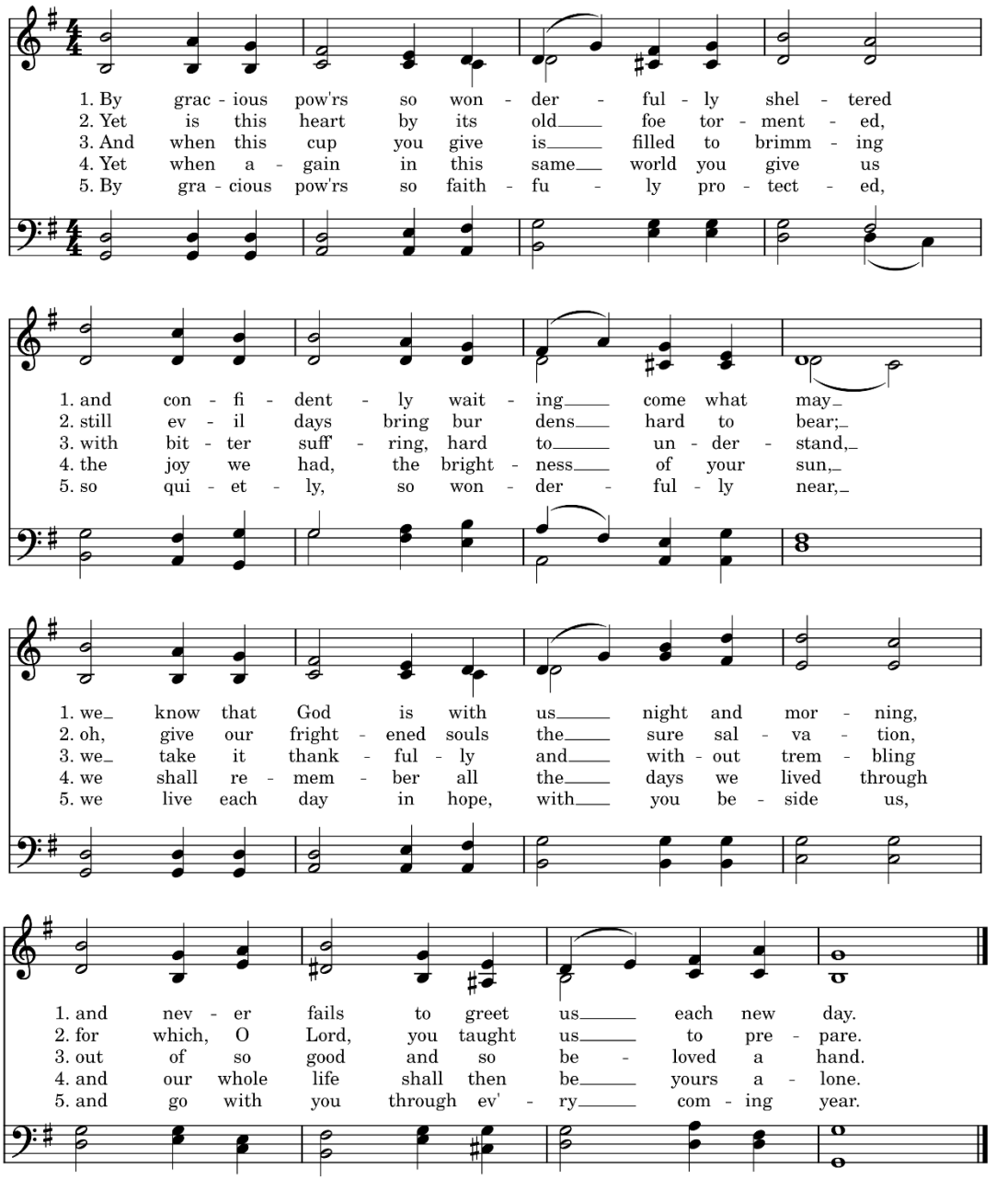
Announcements

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.**

*Sending Hymn: *"By Gracious Powers"* *(ELW 626)*

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
A: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to join our monthly potluck fellowship immediately following the service in Rohrbaugh Hall our Fellowship Hall/Large Gathering Room.

Postlude

Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, October 19
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121 (2)
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Monday, October 20
1 Samuel 25:2-22
1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Psalm 57

Tuesday, October 21
1 Samuel 25:23-35
James 5:7-12
Psalm 57

Wednesday, October 22
1 Samuel 25:36-42
Luke 22:39-46
Psalm 57

Thursday, October 23
Jeremiah 9:1-16
2 Timothy 3:1-9
Psalm 84:1-7

Friday, October 24
Jeremiah 9:17-26
2 Timothy 3:10-15
Psalm 84:1-7

Saturday, October 25
Jeremiah 14:1-6
Luke 1:46-55
Psalm 84:1-7

ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Serving Today

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Eleanor Bird
Musician..... Jacob Heller
Sacristan..... Ann Reede
Reader..... Linda Govere

About St. Paul

Purpose

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

Mission

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

Core Values

Faith ♠ Compassion ♠ Generosity ♠ Community

Our Bible Verses

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

Land Acknowledgement

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Conestoga-Susquehannock people, where we gather. 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.
Find out more about the Conestoga-Susquehannock at www.conestogasusquehannocktribe.com

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