



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED)

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

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 confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have rejected your discipline. We have avoided your pruning of our cluttered lives. We have failed to maintain the tools of stewardship, outreach, and witness you have provided for the nurture of your church. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, train us, and redirect us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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: "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

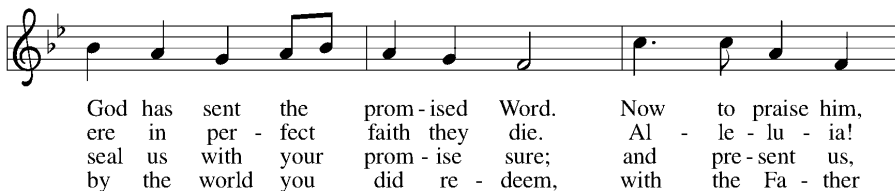
(ELW 417)



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

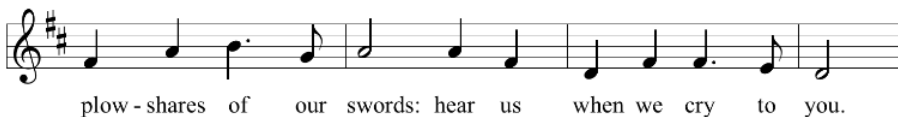


Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

*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





Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis

Music: THE DEVIL'S NINE QUESTIONS, Appalachian traditional

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Almighty and ever-living God, your only begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

Malachi (which means "my messenger") was written soon after the Temple was rebuilt and worship beginning in Jerusalem again after the exile in Babylon. "Refiner's fire" was hot enough to melt metal and separate it from its impurities; "fuller's soap" bleached cloth. The "sons of Levi" were the hereditary priesthood of Israel, empowered to offer sacrifices in the temple.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM 147:1-11, 20

(Sung to the tune Ellacombe ELW 521)

This psalm gives voice to what Isaiah 40 implies – the certainty that God will fulfill the divine promises.

O praise the LORD how good it is to sing praise to our God;
How pleasant and how fitting when we sing His praise abroad!
The Lord builds up Je-ru-sa-lem, and gath-ers those out-cast;
He heals the bro-ken-heart-ed, and binds up their wounds at last.

He counts the number of the stars, and calls them each by name.
Great is the LORD in pow'r and might—our minds can't grasp His fame.
The LORD sustains the humble, and supports the ones bowed down,
But stands against the wicked ones, and casts them to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanks and praise; with harp, make music – sing!
He covers heaven with His clouds; to earth His rain does bring.
He makes the grass grow on the hills, provides the beasts with food;
Young ravens, too, which cry to Him—supplies them all with food.

His pleasure's not in horse's strength, nor in the legs of man;
The LORD delights in those who fear, who trust His loving plan.
No other nation has received His laws or known His ways;
He's done this all for Is-ra-el; O to the LORD be praise!

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18

A familiar theme of the beginning of Luke's Gospel is that Jesus went through everything that a human baby – indeed, that a Jewish boy – did: conception, birth, circumcision, and presentation.

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death,

that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
 at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
 will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
 Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
 Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
 that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
 and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:22-40

Tradition was that mothers and their newborns were ritually unclean because of their contact with blood, and needed to be purified at the Temple, usually 40 days after the birth. Further, first born sons belonged to God, and needed to be “bought back” with a sacrifice at the Temple. The song Simeon sings is one which is sung at Compline, a prayer service immediately before bed, and which was quoted by many at their own deaths. It is often sung immediately after communing as well.

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Praise the Lord of Heaven!"

(LBW 541)



1 Praise the Lord of heav - en! Praise him in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, you foun - tains of the deeps and seas;
3 Praise him, fowl and cat - tle, princ - es and all kings;



praise him, all you an - gels; praise him, stars and light!
rocks and hills and moun - tains, ce - dars and all trees!
praise him, men and wom - en, all cre - at - ed things;



Praise him, clouds and wa - ters which, a - bove the skies,
Praise him, clouds and va - pors, snow and hail and fire,
for the name of God is ex - cel - lent a - lone



when his word com - mand - ed, did es - tab - lished rise!
storm - y wind, ful - fill - ing on - ly his de - sire!
o - ver earth his foot - stool, o - ver heav'n his throne!

Text: Thomas B. Browne, 1805–1874
Music: NOUS ALLONS, French carol

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**

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Night and day, we worship you, O God. Make your church a place of prayer and praise. Reveal yourself to those who long for assurance of your presence, and guide us by your Spirit to show your glory to the nations. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: In you the sparrows find a home and the swallows make a safe nest for their young. Nourish all plants and animals who wait for springtime. Uplift those who rely on the lengthening days for their mental and emotional health. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Refine the nations and purify the hearts of those in authority, that all people have equal opportunity to live in freedom and thrive in joy. Shine peace into places of turmoil, strengthen relationships between nations, and open paths for collaboration and understanding. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Renew those who look to you for strength and give endurance to those facing trials. Satisfy the needs of widows, widowers, and all who grieve. Redeem those who suffer (*especially*). Prepare salvation for all who seek you. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Equip your people of all ages with gifts to build up your kingdom. Invigorate our community with the wisdom of elders, the joy of children, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the passion of youth. Teach us to learn from one another across generations. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Living God, happy are they who dwell in your house forever. Grant release to those who stand at the threshold between this life and the next. At the last, dismiss us in peace and reveal to us the glory of your salvation alongside our siblings who have gone before us, especially Bob Kidwell and Stine Walker. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. With gentle hands you prune and shape your people, cutting away that which is dead to you or would keep the warmth of your light from us. You graft us to the true vine, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, that he may abide in us and we in him. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.

*SANCTUS

Verses: Cantor or choir

1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes
3 Oh, what a sight it was to see and

scrip - tures do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the
flow - ing through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts

tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain: Assembly

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow - er and might.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O Lord, for creation:

when all was formless and void,

you sent your Spirit to brood over chaos,

preparing it for the dawning of light and life.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for your election of Israel:

throughout the ages you have shown your love

by rescuing and disciplining your people,

forming them to be your treasure among the nations.

Blessed are you, O Lord, for the incarnation of your Son: for he is the true vine,

through whom you give us, his branches, the life of your grace.

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.

With this bread and cup, then, we remember him:

his birth and baptism; his call of the disciples,

and his training of them by hard words and consolation;

his acceptance of punishment on our behalf, and his sharing of our death;

his glorious resurrection and ascension,

and his promise to be present with us as teacher and host,

so that his joy may be in us and that our joy may be complete.

Send your Spirit upon this meal and all who share it.

As you have united us with your Son, unite us with each other.

Prune what is wayward; heal what is out of joint;

and fit us to pursue peace and holiness.

In your Spirit, through your Son, with your people of every time and place,

we give you thanks and praise, offering all the fruits of our heart, our soul, our mind,

and our strength, now and forever. **A: Amen**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

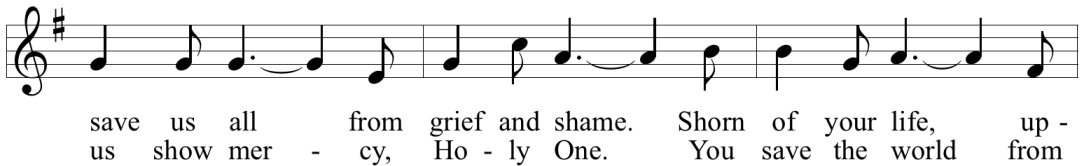
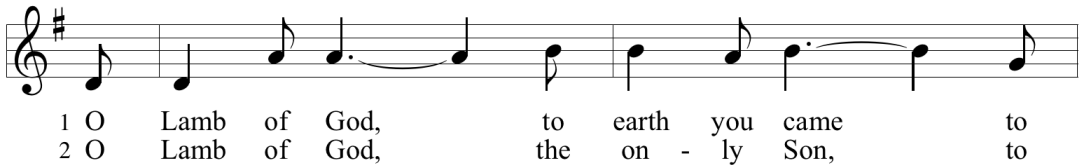
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

A: Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "We Praise You for the Life That Stirs"

(OLS 9)



1 We praise you for the life that stirs when
 2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for
 3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for
 4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when
 5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and



spring - time warms the sleep - ing earth; but
 rip'n - ing grain and length - ened days; but
 har - vest yield from spring - time seed; up -
 earth in fro - zen si - lence lies, for
 praise the Spir - it, with the throng of



most, we praise the grace that lures our
 most, we praise you for the Son whose
 on our hearts your grace be - stow till
 prom - ise of re - turn - ing light, for
 saints and an - gels, joined as one in



slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 O Lord of the blos-som, O God of the seed, O gra-cious pro -
 2 O Lord of the har-vest, O God of the feast, where sor-rows are

vi - der for all hu-man need, you have nour-ished our faith at your
 van-quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your

ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your
 or-chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your

face. O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the
 love. Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the

vine, you've fed us your pres - ence in bread and in
 Son, sing praise to the Spir - it. Praise God, Three in

wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us ar - bor and
 One! You have made us one peo - ple you've fed by the

plow, and shown us the gos - pel, your word for us now.
 hand, O Lord of the heav-ens, O God of the land.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"

(ELW 313)



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n - ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth - ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

DAILY READINGS

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4TH-SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH



Sun—Feb. 4

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3)
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Mon — Feb. 5

2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7
Psalm 102:12-28

Tue — Feb. 6

2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41
Psalm 102:12-28

Wed — Feb. 7

Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12
Psalm 102:12-28

Thu — Feb. 8

1 Kings 11:26-40
2 Corinthians 2:12-17
Psalm 50:1-6

Fri — Feb. 9

1 Kings 14:1-18
1 Timothy 1:12-20
Psalm 50:1-6

Sat — Feb. 10

1 Kings 16:1-7
Luke 19:41-44
Psalm 50:1-6

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR CHURCH!!

February 11: Transfiguration Sunday 10AM

February 13: Shrove Tuesday

February 14: Ash Wednesday 7PM (Sts. Cyril & Methodius)

Wednesdays February 21-March 13: Holden Evening Prayer 6PM,
meal following.

March 24: Palm and Passion Sunday

March 28: Commandment Thursday (Maundy Thursday) 7PM

March 29: God's Friday (Good Friday) 7PM

March 30: Easter Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM

March 31: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)

Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM?

Regular Service: 10AM



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Eleanor Bird
Musician.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
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, 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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