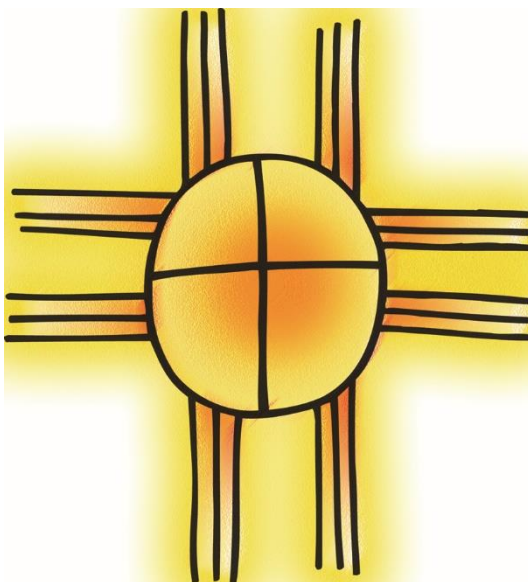




# ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 18, 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

*The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

**PRELUDE:** "Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"

(Dan Forrest)

## 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: God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you, for where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. 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 "If God My Lord Be for Me"

(ELW 788)



1 If God my Lord be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
2 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood  
3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, my sun, my light, a - lone;  
4 For joy my heart is ring - ing; all sor - row dis - ap - pears;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
a - lone are my sal - va - tion, the true, e - ter - nal good.  
were he not my de - fend - er be - fore the judg - ment throne,  
and full of mirth and sing - ing, it wipes a - way all tears.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,  
With - out him all that pleas - es will vain and emp - ty prove.  
I nev - er should find fa - vor and mer - cy in God's sight,  
The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my king;



what foe or what di - sas - ter can drive me from his love?  
The gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone are worth my love.  
but be de - stroyed for - ev - er as dark - ness by the light.  
the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt.

Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody, 16th cent.

## \*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. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 2:10-12; 3:3-14

*The first readings during this summer tell the stories of the early kings of Israel: so far this summer we have heard stories of Saul and David. Now the focus moves to Solomon. While not David's oldest son, Solomon was chosen to succeed him, and this story gives the origin of his legendary wisdom.*

<sup>10</sup>David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. <sup>11</sup>The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup>So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

<sup>3,3</sup>Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. <sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. <sup>14</sup>If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

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

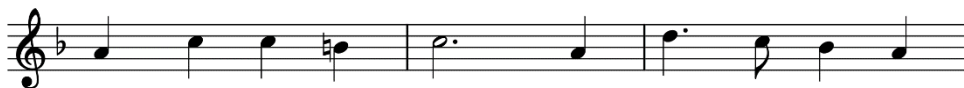
## PSALM: III

(sung to the tune Winchester Old ACS 913)

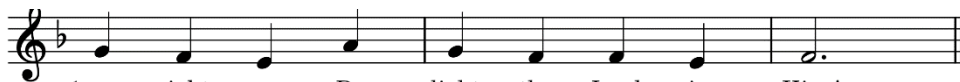
*The last verse of this psalm makes clear what is at the heart of wisdom like Solomon's.*



|            |        |             |       |       |       |        |       |
|------------|--------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. All     | praise | I'll give   | with  | all   | my    | heart, | Bring |
| 2. En -    | joy    | the great   | works | of    | the   | Lord;  | Fail  |
| 3. In      | all    | my mem' -   | ry    | God   | has   | placed | Just  |
| 4. Mer -   | cy     | God gives   | to    | those | who   | fear,  | No    |
| 5. Quick - | ly     | God shows   | God's | mi -  | ghty  | power; | Re -  |
| 6. Up -    | right  | and stead - | fast  | are   | God's | ways;  | Vi -  |
| 7. You     | will   | find wis -  | dom   | when  | you   | seek   | the   |



|           |      |         |       |        |        |       |       |        |       |
|-----------|------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1. thanks | to   | God     | and   | sing.  | Come,  | ga -  | ther  | all    | you   |
| 2. not    | to   | see,    | a -   | dore.  | Great  | and   | ma -  | jes -  | tic   |
| 3. acts   | and  | won -   | drous | deeds. | Know   | that  | the   | Lord's | com - |
| 4. food   | they | lack    | or    | need.  | O      | God   | re -  | mem -  | bers  |
| 5. wards  | with | gifts   | of    | land.  | Shows  | us    | God's | just   | and   |
| 6. brant  | in   | faith - | ful - | ness.  | Well   | has   | God   | saved  | God's |
| 7. fear   | of   | God     | the   | Lord.  | Zeal - | ous - | ly    | fol -  | low   |



1. up - right ones, De - light-- the Lord is King!
2. are God's deeds; God's right - eous - ness en - dures
3. pass - ion - ate; Love and kind grace is God.
4. cov - en - ant, Pro - vides e - ter - nal ly.
5. faith - ful works; Trust - wor - thy, God's law stands.
6. cov' - nant ones-- ex - tol God's ho - li ness.
7. God's com - mands--praise the Lord ev - er more.

## SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:15-20

*In these weeks we are reading through the letter to the church in Ephesus. This letter is a call to unity to a congregation which was divided between those of Jewish and those of non-Jewish backgrounds. Like many of Paul's letters, it ends with advice about how the community should live out its unity and freedom in Christ.*

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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*



**Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood a-<sup>1</sup> bide in me,\*  
and I a-<sup>1</sup> bide in them.**

## \*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 6:51-58

*This year most of our Gospel readings are from Mark. That Gospel, however, is too short to cover a full year, so that for the next few weeks we hear the story of the feeding of the 5000 and its aftermath from John's Gospel. In his telling of the Last Supper, John does not mention a shared meal; this passage is his institution of Holy Communion. Jesus' teaching would have been deeply troubling to his audience: kosher laws required the draining of even animal blood from all meat to be consumed. While the covenant with Israel was sealed with blood (Ex. 24:8), that animal blood was sprinkled on the people, not drunk by them.*

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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

## SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Come, Let Us Eat"

(ELW 491)

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



Text: Billema Kwilla, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.  
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwilla, adapt.  
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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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation (*local agriculture may be named*). Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort (*especially*).

Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us, especially Fred Ferguson. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**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](http://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:** "Lead Me to Calvary"

(Dan Forrest)

**OFFERTORY:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

(ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all  
creatures here below; praise God above, ye

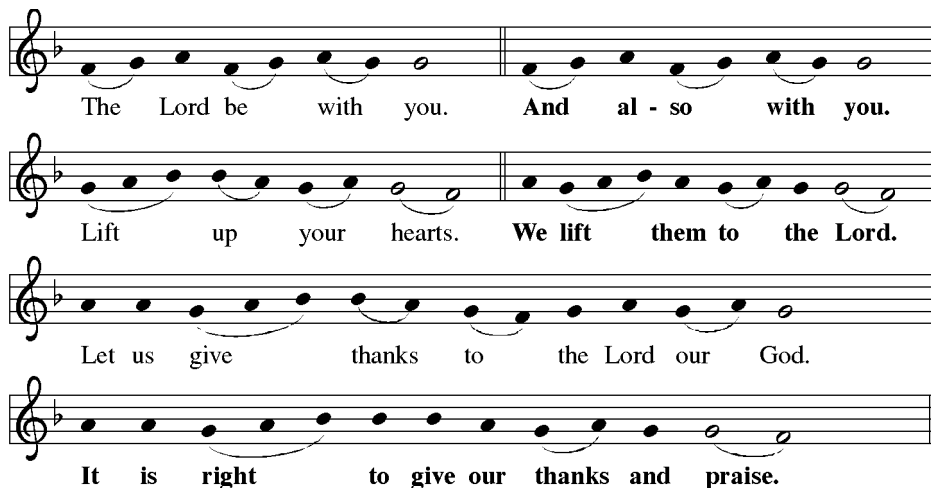


## \*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **A: Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

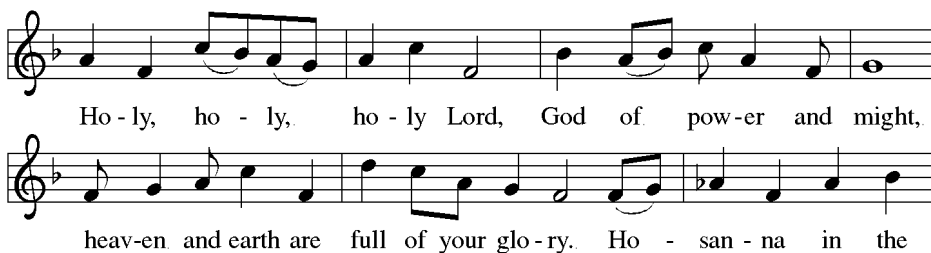
### \* DIALOGUE

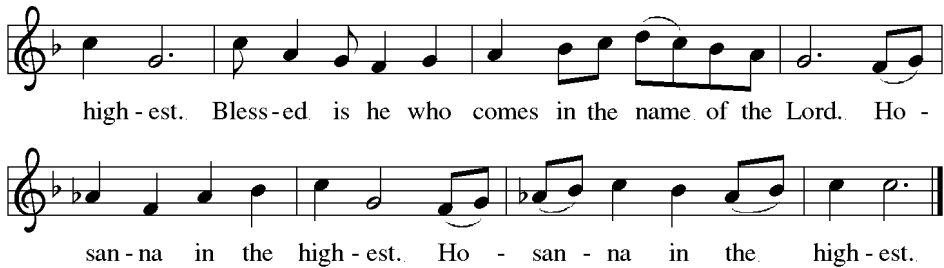


### \*PREFACE

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

### \*SANCTUS





### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, Mighty, and Merciful God,

in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When Sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing,  
his body given up, and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

**A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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;**

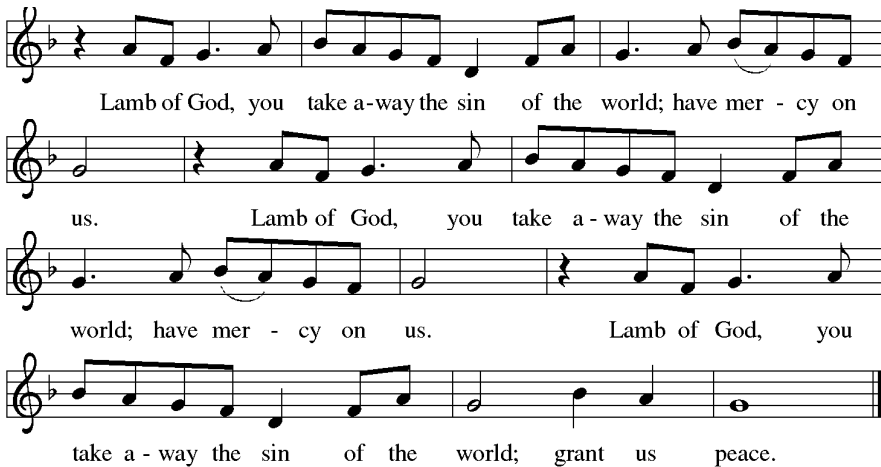
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## \*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

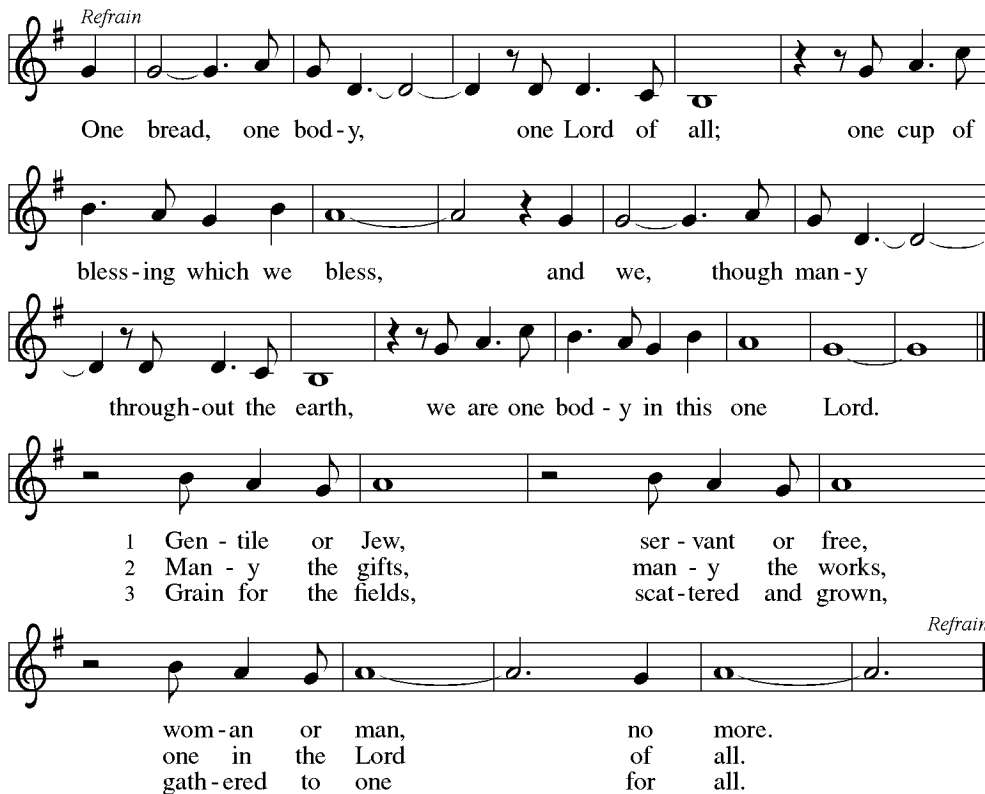
## COMMUNION

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

# COMMUNION HYMN: "One Bread, One Body"

(ELW 496)

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of  
 bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y  
 through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.  
 1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,  
 2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,  
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,  
*Refrain*  
 wom-an or man, no more.  
 one in the Lord of all.  
 gath-ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, st. b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, st

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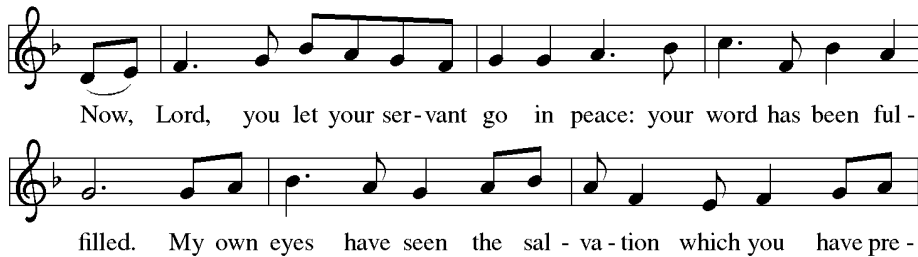
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## \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

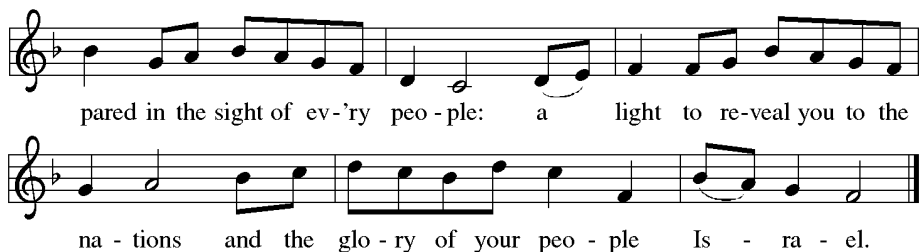
L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace.

**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 -



## **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

L: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **A: Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **\*SENDING OF COMMUNION**

### **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AND BRIEFCASES**

Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

**A: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

O God, As we transition out of summer into another academic year, we ask your blessing on these symbols of our labor at work and school, and especially on these people who will carry them.

As they practice their vocations of employment or study, bless them with: eagerness to learn new things; healthy relationships with those who work alongside them; a love for nature, that they may be caretakers of your creation; happiness when work is easy, and patience and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard; peace and rest when the work is stressful; courage and vision when they aren't sure what to do; and faith in Jesus as their greatest boss, best teacher, and closest friend.

We ask that you protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from work and school. As they labor and learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each of them to be used in your work in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully to your voice that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name and strengthen us

all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: "In the Singing"

(ELW 466)



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

*Refrain*



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE: "Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet"

(Robert Lau)



## *Daily Readings for the Week*

**Sunday, August 18**

**Complementary Series**

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalms 34:9-14 (10)

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

**Semi-continuous Series**

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalms 111 (10)

**Monday, August 19**

Genesis 43:1-15

Acts 6:1-7

Psalms 36

**Tuesday, August 20**

Genesis 45:1-15

Acts 7:9-16

Psalms 36

**Wednesday, August 21**

Genesis 47:13-26

Mark 8:14-21

Psalms 36

**Thursday, August 22**

Joshua 22:1-9

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalms 34:15-22

**Friday, August 23**

Joshua 22:10-20

Romans 13:11-14

Psalms 34:15-22

**Saturday, August 24**

Joshua 22:21-34

Luke 11:5-13

Psalms 34:15-22



**SERVING TODAY**

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel  
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Muthler  
Musician..... Jim Rearick  
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan  
Reader.....Jeff Muthler

**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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