



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: 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: God, our rock and refuge,

A: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. 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: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

(ELW 588)



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th 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.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us
 pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
 and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
 A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
 hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray, Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:1-5, 10

In chapter 1, God gave this same command to Jonah, who immediately ran in the opposite direction. Having boarded a ship to flee from God, he was thrown overboard because he seemed to be the cause of a storm which threatened to swamp them. Jonah was miraculously rescued by being swallowed by a giant fish, and after three days being spit up on the shore. Converted, he hears the voice of God again.

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

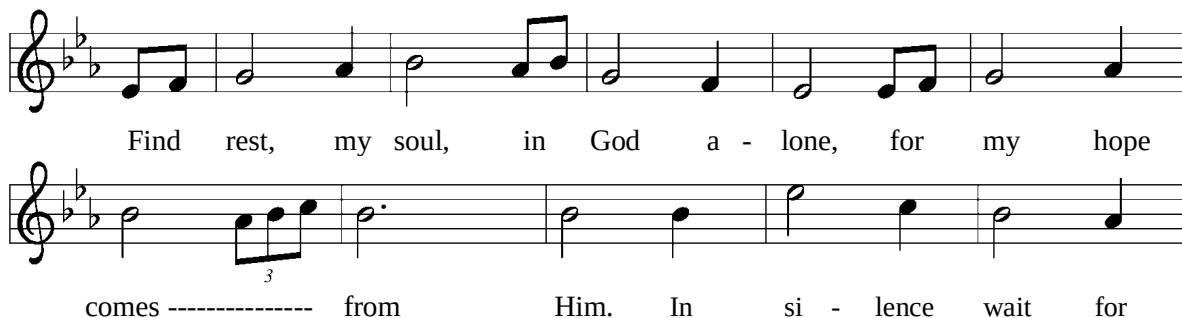
¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

PSALM 62: 5-12

(Sung to the tune St. Columba ELW 502)

While the book of Jonah contains the prayer Jonah sang from the belly of the fish, this psalm could have been his as well. Waiting and trusting in God, the psalmist declares that God's power and righteousness (to Jonah and the Ninevites, as well as to us) are shown not in condemnation, but in love and forgiveness.





God, my soul; and on - ly look to Him.

He only is my fortress, rock, and my salvation sure;
I'll not be shaken, for He is my stronghold evermore.

For my salvation, honor too, depend on God alone.
He is my mighty rock of strength, my refuge—He alone.

O people, trust in Him always; at all times, all day long;
Pour out your hearts before Him for God is our refuge strong.

For lowborn men are but a breath, and highborn men a lie;
When on the balance they are weighed, they're only a breath's sigh.

Trust not in greed, oppression, nor put hope in robbery;
If wealth increase, don't set your heart upon its vanity.

One thing God spoke, two things I've heard: that You, O God, are strong,
And loving, too, Lord—You reward each one as they have done.

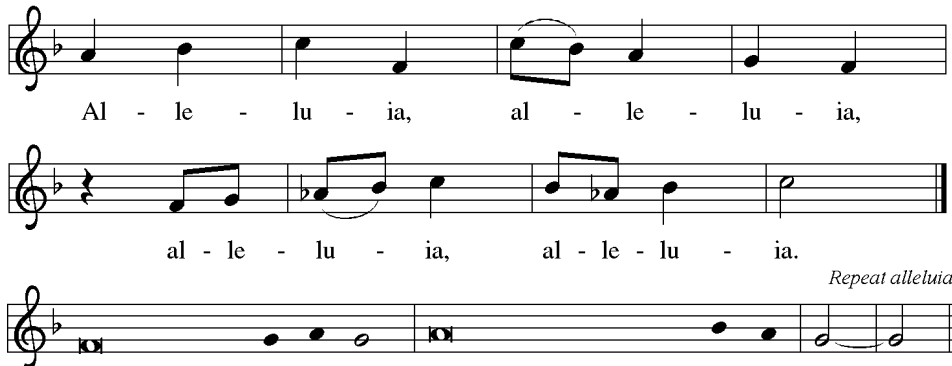
SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

For most of the season of Epiphany, we'll be reading almost continuously through Paul's letter to the Corinthians. This passage is misleading without the arguments which precede and follow it. Part of this congregation, among many other misunderstandings, had been convinced that they must remain celibate. Before these verses, Paul has encouraged everyone – married or single – to remain in the state to which they were called. Afterward, he explains that he gives the advice in these verses not because marriage or employment are evil, but because he wishes people, so close to the advent of Christ, to be free from anxiety about spouses or jobs.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God¹ has come near;*
repent, and believe in¹ the good news.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:14-20

In all four Gospels, Jesus begins his earthly ministry by calling disciples. This reading, beginning with a summary of Jesus' teaching, has echoes of the calling of Jonah.

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

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

(ACS 1004)



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem-'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them as the martyr, Agnes, ministered to victims of sexual abuse. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain (*especially*). God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of unity and reconciliation, as you prayed that your Church would be one, send forth your Spirit to reunify all your people. We pray for your Church in all places so that we may strengthen our witness to you. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care, we remember those of our congregation who have gone before us, like Bob Kidwell, and of the whole church, especially Agnes. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (verse 1)**

(ELW 314)



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947.
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893.
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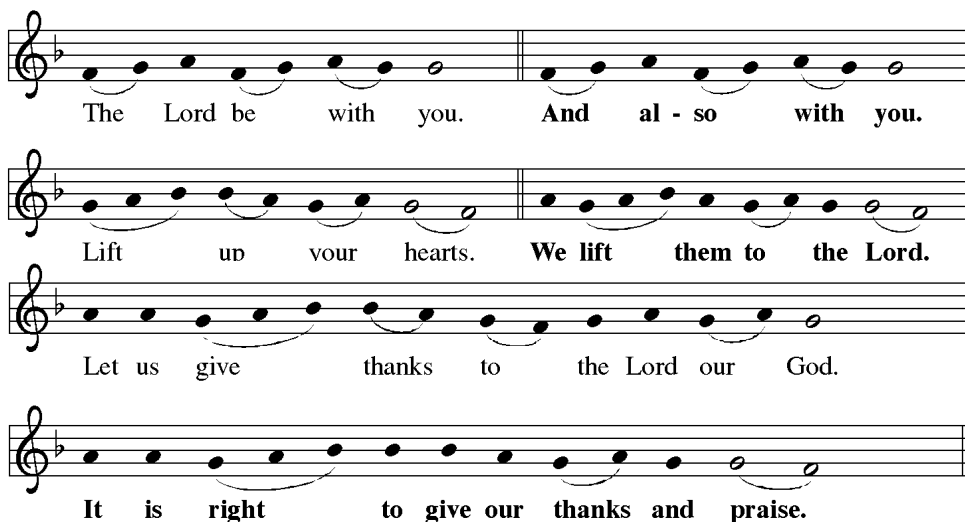
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

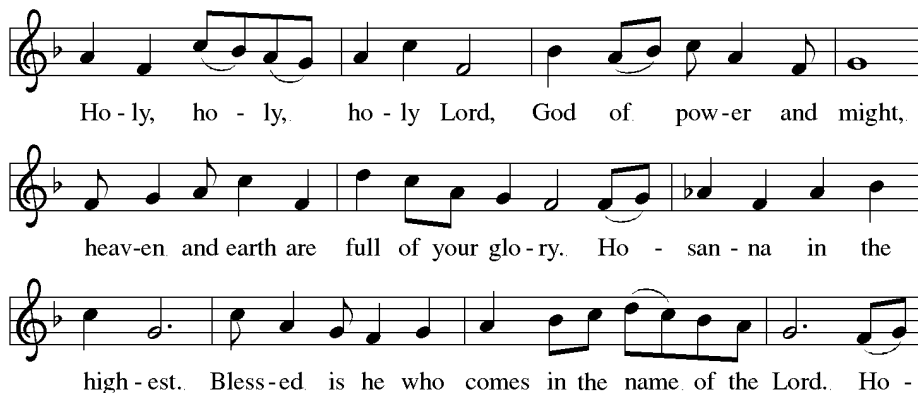
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

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,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

A: Amen

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

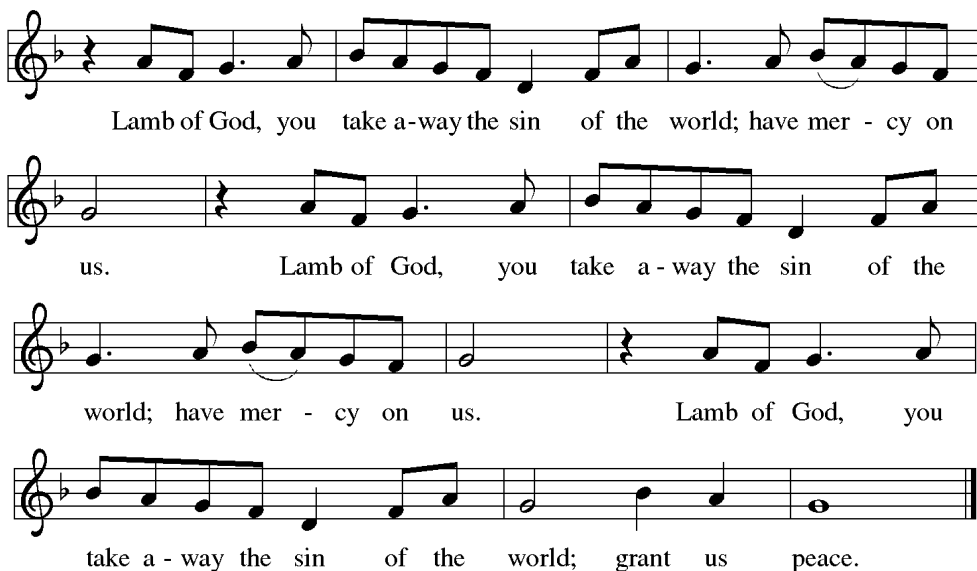
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see..

***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

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story"

(ELW 661)



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*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 – *Thankful Hearts*



Thank-ful hearts and voice-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **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: "Go to the World!"

(ACS 991)



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,
bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 18-25

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

PRAYERS

Day 1: Help us, Lord, to have a life turned towards you.

Day 2: Help me Lord to love you, my neighbor and myself with all that I am.

Day 3: Lord, open our hearts to those we do not see.

Day 4: Lord, may we never turn away from those in need.

Day 5: Lord, help us see the wounds and find hope.

Day 6: Lord, turn our churches into 'inns', to welcome those in need.

Day 7: Lord, show us how to respond to our neighbor.

Day 8: Lord, may our fellowship be a sign of your Kingdom.

CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR EACH DAY

January 18: Eastern Orthodox, Coptic, and other Eastern Churches

January 19: Roman Catholic and Uniate Churches

January 20: Anglican, Old Catholic, and allied churches

January 21: Lutheran, Moravian, and Methodist Churches

January 22: Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed Churches

January 23: Baptist, Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite, and Christian (Disciples of Christ)
Churches

January 24: Pentecostal and charismatic churches

January 25: Nonmainstream communities; theologians and councils seeking to promote
Christian unity while preserving Christian truth.

A LISTENING SESSION INVITATION

At the 2022 Allegheny Synod Assembly, we forwarded a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly which resulted in the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) being formed. The CRLC has been meeting and working toward outcomes outlined in the memorial. Namely:

- reconsider the statements of purpose for each of expression (congregation, synod, churchwide) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- the principles of our organizational structure, and
- all other matters pertaining thereunto,

Now, they want to hear from you! The Allegheny Synod has scheduled a Listening Session on Tuesday, January 30. There are two times scheduled: 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Listening Session will be held via Zoom and the link will be sent to anyone who registers. This is free and open to any member of the Allegheny Synod (any member of our congregation is a member of the synod).

Register by going to this link: <http://tinyurl.com/8CListening-CRLC>



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Linda Govere
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, 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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