



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 26, 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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(ELW 504)



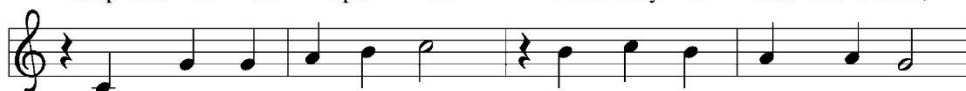
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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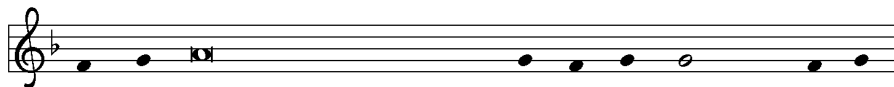
*GREETING

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.**

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.

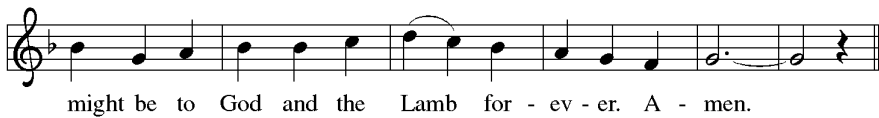
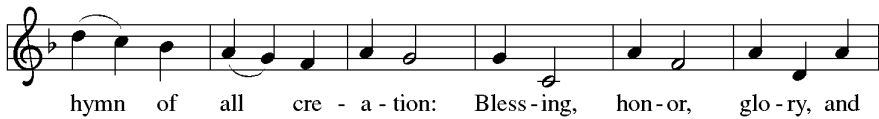
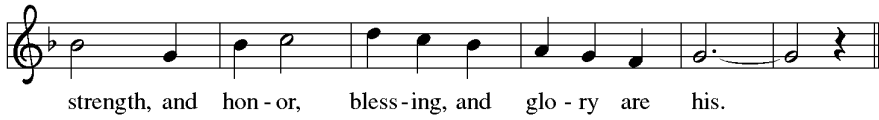
HYMN OF PRAISE

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



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

P: Let us pray: Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:23-32

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. This week we read from Joel, who wrote in the context of the devastation of the nation's crops by locusts.

²³ O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ Then afterward
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

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

PSALM 46

(sung to the tune Third Mode Melody ACS 920)

This psalm was the inspiration for "A Mighty Fortress," Luther's most famous hymn. The first several verses have also provided connections with the Wartburg, the castle in which Luther took refuge after being condemned by the emperor. The whole psalm sums up very well the work of the Word and the Spirit in the thinking of the Reformers – providing both sustenance and safety.



1. God is our ref - uge and our strength, In God our hope is found;
2. Though wa - ters roar and foam with pow'r, And tem - pests make us shake;
3. God is with - in her; she stands firm and will not fall a - way;
4. The Lord Al - migh - ty is with us, God is our ref - uge sure.
5. "Be still, and know that I am God, Ex - al - ted will I be!"



1. An ev - er - pres - ent help in need, When trou - ble is a - round.
2. Though surg - ing wa - ters ev - en cause the moun - tain peaks to quake.
3. And God will sure - ly give her help when comes the break of day.
4. The God of Ja - cob is our trust, Our for - tress ev - er - more.
5. A - mong all na - tions, all the earth, Ex - al - ted will I be!"



1. There - fore, — we will not fear, though earth should trem - ble and give way;
2. There is — a ri - ver that makes glad the ci - ty of our God;
3. All na - tions are in up - roar as their king - doms rise and fall;
4. Come, see — the works the Lord has done, The de - so - la - tions here.
5. The Lord — Al - migh - ty is with us, God is our re - fuge sure;



1. Though moun - tains fall in - to the sea, He's still our help and stay:
2. The ho - ly place where the Most High does dwell and reign a-broad.
3. God lifts Their voice, and all earth melts be - fore God's migh - ty call.
4. God makes wars cease to ends of earth, And breaks the bow and spear.
5. The God of Ja - cob is our trust, Our for - tress ev - er - more.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

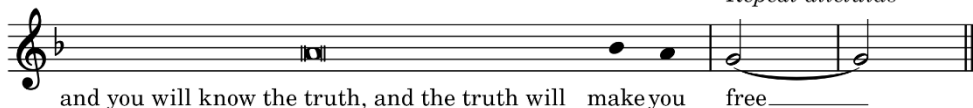
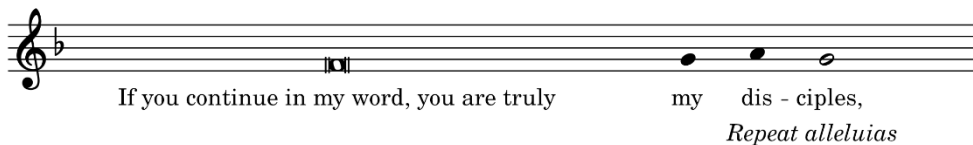
Today we conclude our reading of the letters addressed to Timothy. A "libation" is a drink poured out on the ground as an offering of thanksgiving to a god or ancestor.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 18:9-14

The Pharisees were a lay-led movement within the Judaism of the first century, who followed a strict but joyous interpretation of the Law, which distinguished them from the surrounding Gentiles, but also from their less strict siblings in the faith. Tax collectors collaborated with the occupying Roman army, contracting to collect taxes, but able to keep anything they could collect beyond what was required to be sent to Rome.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

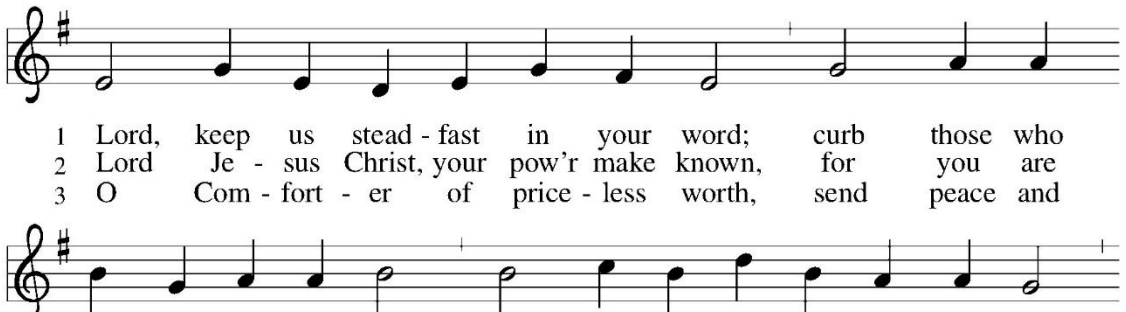
P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

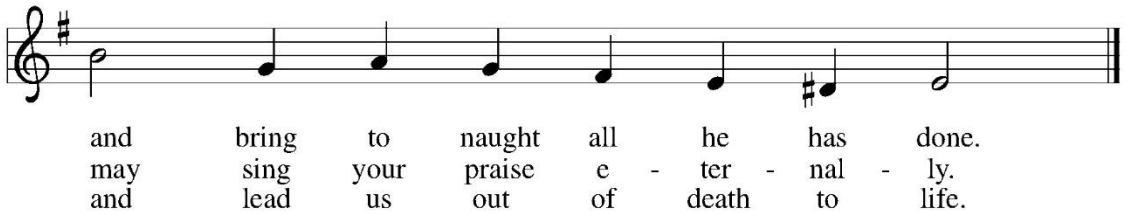
*HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

(ELW 517)



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

HOLY BAPTISM

Please open the front of the cranberry red hymnals (ELWs) to page 227 for the rite of Holy Baptism.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

L: Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, Paul Gerhardt, Wayne Shearburn, and Helen Rudolph. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. 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.

***PEACE**

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

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

***OFFERTORY: "Lift Up Your Heads"**

(ACS 1032)

1 Lift up your heads, all you bowed low,
hear the liv - ing wa - ter flow: quench - ing
spring and cleans - ing pool, heal - ing riv - er, clear and
cool. How fresh it falls up -



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: WEST LEESTAD, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979

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Music © 2013 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

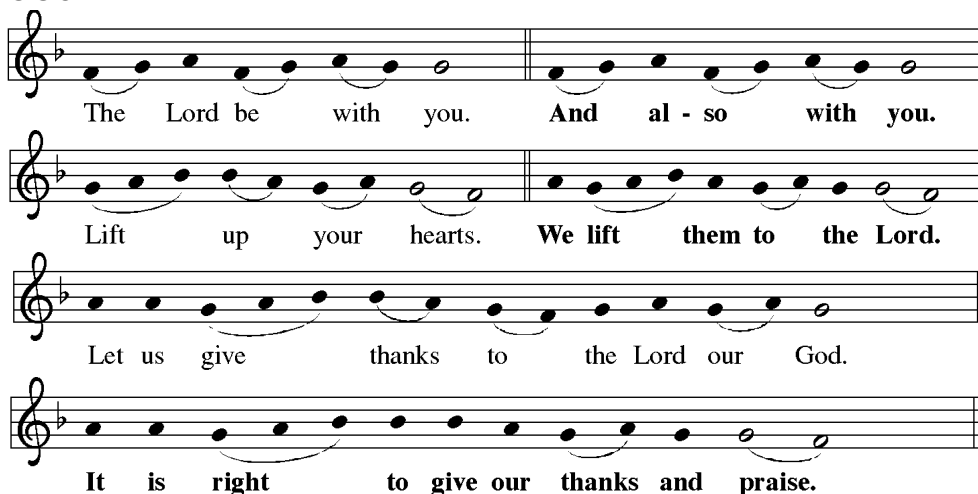
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*OFFERING PRAYER

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 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

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 -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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.

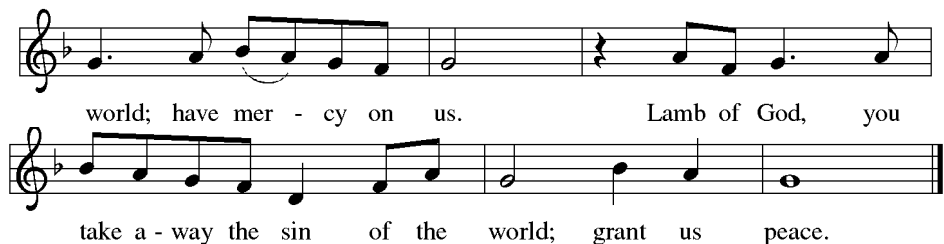
***LAMB OF GOD**



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

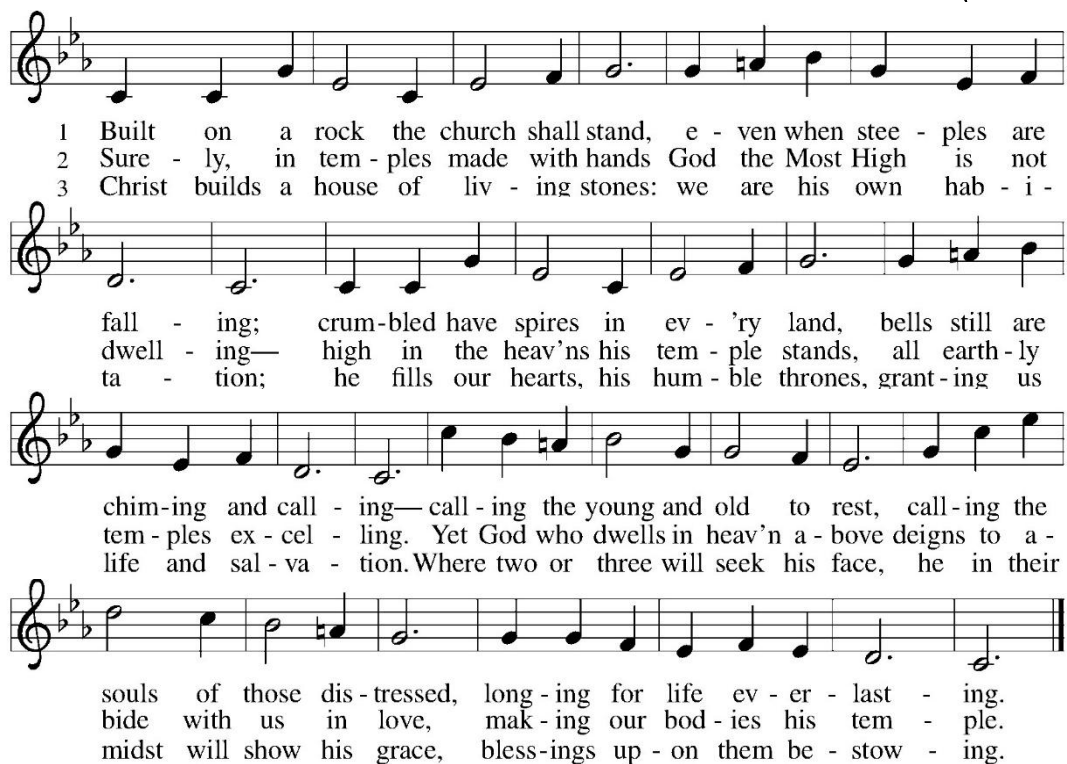


COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN: "Built on a Rock"

(ELW 652)



4) Now we may gather with our King;
E'en in the lowliest dwelling;
Praises to him we there may bring;
His wondrous mercy forth telling.
Jesus His grace to us accords!
Spirit and life are all his words.
With truth he hallows his temple.

5 Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.

6 Here stands the font before our eyes
 Telling how God did receive us;
 The altar speaks Christ's Sacrifice
 And what his table does give us;
 Here sounds the Word that does proclaim
 Christ yesterday, today the same,
 Eternal Son: our Redeemer.

7 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,
 many may come to hear your Word,
 who here this promise is bringing:
 "I know my own, my own know me;
 you, not the world, my face shall see;
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."

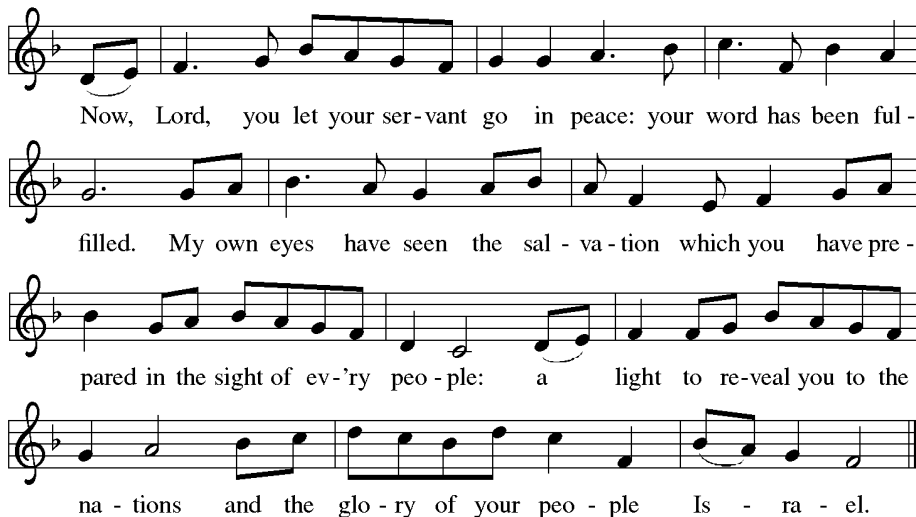
Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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)



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 -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*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: "The Church's One Foundation"

(ELW 654)



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister..... Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister..... Art Reede
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan..... Ann Reede
Reader..... Ann Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the 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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