



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 11, 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

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

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. 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 neglected to nurture the new growth you cause to sprout among us. We have failed to protect those tender and vulnerable in faith from the choking weeds of our indifference and inflexibility. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, rededicate us, and compel 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 "As We Gather at Your Table"

(ELW 522)



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri-um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

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

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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



A: We — pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our



swords, hear us when we cry to you. **C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have**



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your



face, hear us when we cry to you. **C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have**



mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and root it in your



word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on us, have



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on us, hear our cry. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE - *Above the Hills the Angel Host*



1. A - bove the hills the an - gel host Sings glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!
2. In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High, Sing glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!
3. Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy and peace, Sing glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!
4. We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring, Sing glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!
5. To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord, Sing glo-ry! Glo-ry! Glo-ry!



God's Love is come to seek the lost. Give Glo-ry to God in the High-est!
Yet ten - der - ly God hears our cry.
God's own good will grants sin's re - lease.
We bow be - fore you as we sing
The Lamb of God, E - ter - nal Word,

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The first readings during this summer tell the stories of the early kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon. Absalom, the son David loved most dearly, rebelled against his father, and forced him to flee from Jerusalem. David, however, has prepared a counter-attack against the son he still loves.

⁵[King David] ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

⁹Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁵And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

³¹Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." ³²The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

³³The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

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

PSALM: 130

(O God, to You I Cry in Pain ACS 1021)

This psalm of near-despair and yet hope reflects David's grief over the death of his son.

1 O God, to you I cry in pain when
2 Give me the strength to face my ill, to that
3 With - in the com - fort and the love that
4 Al - low my mind to rest in you, and
sick - ness makes me weak, when mind and bod - y
trust in skill and care, to bless the hands that
hu - man touch can give, re - store in me a
let your peace per - vade to hold me in your
out of tune bring fears I can - not speak
help me heal and find your spir - it there
larg - er sense of what it is to live
great - er pow'r and not to be a - fraid.

Text: Shirley Emma Murray, 1931 - 2020
Music: SHANTÉ, Shirley Thompson, b. 1959
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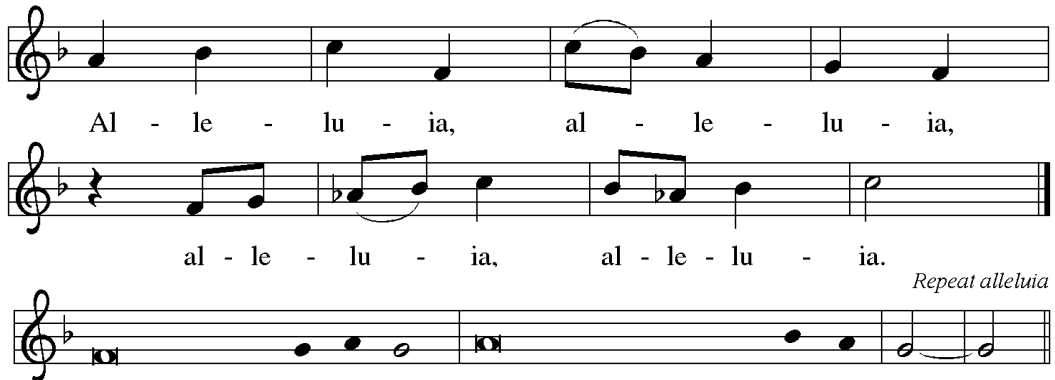
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:25—5:2

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. Earlier, the author had called on the Jewish Christians to welcome those who, like them, had been saved by grace. That salvation, however, brings with it to all Christians a personal transformation: growing into the image of Christ means abandoning the competitive, acquisitive values of the outside world.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am the living bread that came ¹ down from heaven.*

Whoever eats this bread will ¹ live forever.

*GOSPEL READING: JOHN 6:35, 41-51

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 the Gospel's institution of Holy Communion. Jesus's saying, "I am the bread of life" is also one of a number of times he says "I am" something (the Good Shepherd; the Way, the Truth, and the Life, etc.). By using that phrase, he is also subtly claiming to be God, who told Moses from the burning bush that his name was "I AM."

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

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and

gives life to the world.”³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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

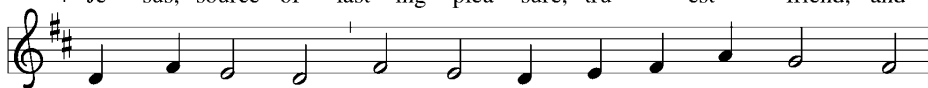
SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

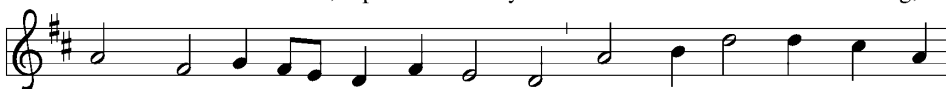
(ELW 488)



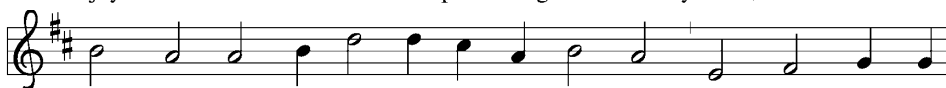
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: “Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er.”
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; w. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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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**

L: 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: Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, and remembering Clare of San Damiano, who was known for her powerful prayer, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries especially the State College Food Bank. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill (*especially*). Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith, especially the saints of our congregation like Shirely Wheeler and Gene DeMark. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. 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, 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 place up - on your ta - ble.
2. The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought But on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dai - ly food Be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum - bly we a - dore you.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*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.

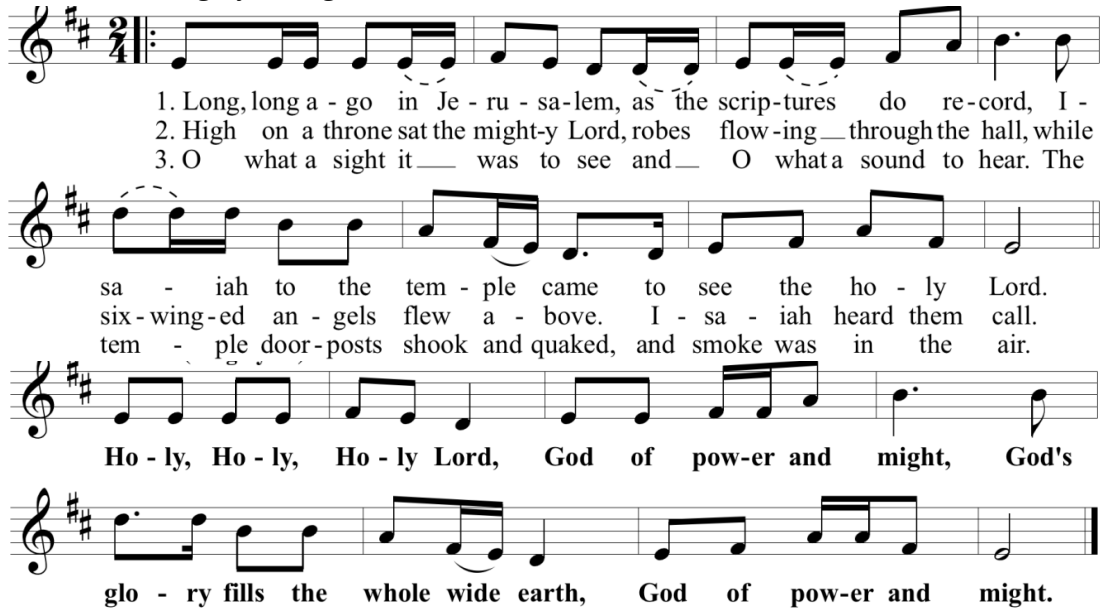
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. You sent your Son to reveal your never-failing love for creation. Through your Holy Spirit you provide for our nurture and protection that we might have all things necessary for growth in grace and humble service to your people. 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 (sung by all together)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
3. O what a sight it was to see and O what a sound to hear. The

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

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's
glo - ry fills the whole wide earth, God of pow - er and might.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, God of power and might, and your glory fills the whole earth.
You created all that exists: stars and suns; flowing streams and ripening grain;
abundance stored on the ground and within it; the richness of life of plants and animals.
You created humans to care for and enjoy your creation,
and to give words to its song of praise. When humanity fell into sin,
you chose Abraham and Sarah and their descendants to win us back.

Through the ages you nurtured and nourished your chosen people,
using prophets and judges, story and poetry to guide and guard them.
And at the midsummer of the ages,
you sent your Son to bring your life to your people and your creation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth for our hope, his teaching for our correction,
his welcome for our reconciliation, his healing for our encouragement,
his death for our forgiveness, his resurrection for our jubilation,
his ascension for our companionship and his promise to come again for our reassurance,
we give you thanks not only with our lips but with our lives.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the life-giver and advocate.
By this meal, let the fruit of your Spirit ripen in our midst and in our lives.
Unite us with all who share this feast, and nurture us to become what you have made us –
your beloved people, the body of your Son, the temple of your Spirit.

Through that Son, in that Spirit, with that people,
we give you thanks and praise, O source of our life and fountain of all good,
now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

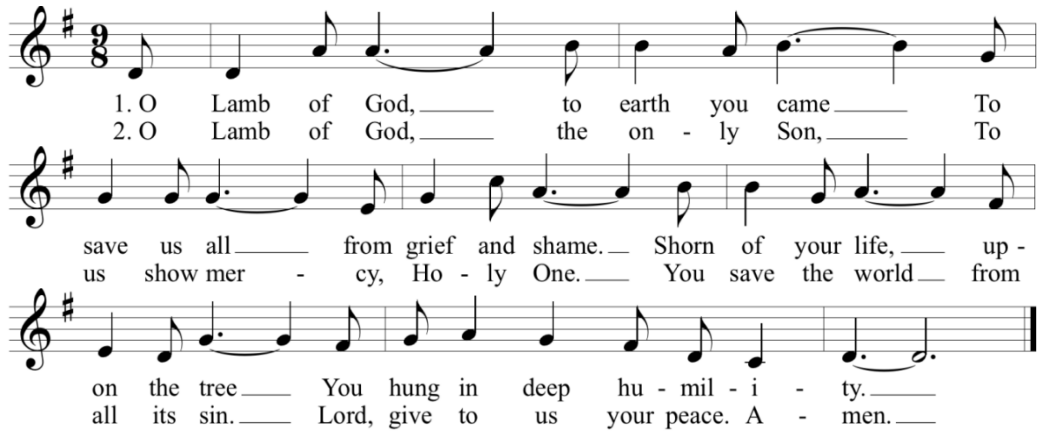
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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



1. O Lamb of God, to earth you came To
 2. O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, To
 save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from
 on the tree You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

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

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

(OLS 8)



1 We praise you for the life that stirs when spring-time warms the
 2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for rip'n - ing grain and
 3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for har - vest yield from
 4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when earth in fro - zen
 5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir - it,
 sleep - ing earth; but most, we praise the
 length - ened days; but most, we praise you
 spring - time seed; up - on our hearts your
 si - lence lies, for prom - ise of re -
 with the throng of saints and an - gels,
 grace that lures our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth,
 for the Son whose light brings heal - ing in his rays,
 grace be - stow till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed,
 turn - ing light, for life in Christ that nev - er dies,
 joined as one in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song,
 our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 whose light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 for life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

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 face.
or-chards a - bove, We'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your love.



O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the vine, You've fed us your
Sing praise to the Fa - ther, Sing praise to the Son, Sing praise to the



pres-ence in bread and in wine. In com-mun - ion you've blest to us
Spir - it. Praise God, Three in One! You have made us one peo - ple you've



ar - bor and plow, And shown us the Gos - pel, your Word for us now.
fed by the 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

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: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

(ELW 452)



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **A: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Morgen Hummel
Musician..... Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Karen Magnuson
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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